

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upholding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.
Member of Canadian Press—Audit Bureau of Circulations
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited
J. P. MAGOR, President
Subscription Rates:
By mail—Per month \$1.00; per year \$10.00.
By carrier—per month, \$1.20; per year, \$12.00.
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Handle With Care

OF ALL the attractive decorations that adorn homes at this time of year, none is more beautiful than the Christmas tree. It is the centre piece about which everything else is embellishment. But like other beautiful things, it must be handled with care.

Christmas trees occur because an extra hazard is brought into homes, schools, stores and public buildings. A Christmas tree can be transformed in a split second from a symbol of family happiness and security into a miniature atom bomb and a flaming torch to threaten the entire household.

Remember, your Christmas tree, being filled with pitch and resin, is very combustible, especially when the needles become dry. It ignites easily and burns furiously. Care and caution are needed to keep it safe.

Do not use an overly large tree. Small trees are less hazardous. Be sure to obtain a freshly cut tree.

Keep the tree outside the house until ready to set it up. Place it in the coolest part of the house, away from hot air registers, heaters and fireplaces. Do not block entrances or passage ways.

Make sure the tree is firmly fastened to a strong wooden or iron base so that it cannot be pulled over by a curious or careless child. Better still, stand it in a pail of water partially filled with sand or coal. This reduces inflammability as effectively as any fire-proofing chemicals, retarding the drying out of the tree.

When using colored electric globes as decorations, be certain the cords and connections are not damaged. During the last war many sets of cheap foreign Christmas tree lights were sold in Prince Rupert. These should be discarded.

A few simple precautions can add greatly to your family's peace of mind during the holiday season and give added assurance that their Christmas will not be marred by tragedy.

A Piddling Issue

PEOPLE of Puddletown are in a peculiar position. The Dorset county council insists upon changing the name of Puddletown to Piddletown, and the parishioners for rather obvious reasons are protesting.

Puddletown lies in the valley of the Piddle, and there could be a relationship between the two names other than strictly geographic. But the county council, with a blithe disregard for the niceties of the situation, avers the two should bear the same nomenclature, rather than have one the equal to the other, so to speak.

Human idiosyncrasies are apparent in this mud-slinging about the Piddle. Why are the natives quite content to have the name of their beautiful valley called Piddle but be upset when it is applied to their village? This seems to make it a piddling issue.

—Windsor Star.

Wandering Cow

FAILURE to assure that cattle are well fenced in is a recognized danger, but this danger was probably never more clearly proven than in a recent case near Toronto.

A cow wandered onto a super highway and caused a truck loaded with explosives to overturn. There was no explosion, however. A few minutes later a motorist skidded out of control to avoid the cow and was taken to hospital with injuries.

The cow ambled a short distance down the road causing a truck and car to collide. The cow was killed, the truck caught fire and the driver of the car was hurt. Then another car crashed into the wreckage of the two vehicles, injuring another driver.

Not a bad day's havoc for any cow.
—Sherbrooke Record.

La Gondola

Will Close at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Will Be Closed All Day Christmas Day for a Staff Holiday

Advertising in The Daily News Brings Results



As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• Peace—How, When?

THE heart of the Christian religion is that mankind was promised "peace on earth."

The translators of the various editions of the Bible may argue about the fine shades of meaning of the message which the shepherds were sure they heard just outside Jerusalem 1956 years ago.

Some translate the words "peace on earth to men of goodwill." Still other ancient and modern authorities give the words "peace on earth, goodwill among men."

But whatever the precise wording of the promise, the substance of the promise was clear. It was "glad tidings" or good news for all nations. There was to be peace and harmony on earth, somehow, some way, some time.

The real question is, how and when?

RETHINKING about the message this week, at the close of the year when mankind has so narrowly and perhaps only temporarily escaped the third world war, I am struck by the fact that the promise of peace on earth was conditional.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace . . ."

Could it be that the world will never get peace until all nations are willing in all humility and sincerity to submit themselves to the will of God?

In other words, perhaps peace on earth will automatically follow when self-bruised, self-blinded and self-sacrificed humanity at last gives glory to God, and consciously tries to follow the prayer which came from the lips of our Lord Himself:

"Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

IT IS a tragic thing that 1956, years after the proclamation of the promise of peace on earth, mankind should once again be hovering on the brink of big world war—and trying to collect its thoughts after the temporary end of two not-so-little ones.

The appalling blood bath in Hungary in 1956 was much a war of Russia, imperialist repression, as ruthless and brutal as the wiping out of Jerusalem by imperialist Rome in ancient times.

The short, sharp clash between Israel and Egypt was a lot less bloody (so far) but it was equally significant from the point of view of international order.

It almost shrieked to the world that time is running out, that the nations cannot go on indefinitely in the state of half-war, half-peace.

TO ME the great lesson of 1956 is that we cannot even begin to get real and solid peace on earth until we sincerely systematically begin to set up world law. Only the United States and British Commonwealth could do this, with the help of other people of goodwill.

If world law is to say—as it certainly should—that the Red armies of Russia must leave Hungary, and the other captive countries of eastern Europe, then world law must also say on what conditions the armed forces of one country may stay in another, and the world police force is to come from to replace some of them.

The year 1956 brought mankind close to the real valley of decision: Whether every nation is to continue to have the armed power and legal right to do whatever is right in its own eyes, or whether all nations, great and small must submit themselves to overall law.

HISTORIC GAP
Park's Strait between India and the northern shore of Ceylon has a minimum width of 40 miles.

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OTTAWA DIARY

By James R. Nelson

An announcement from the office of Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent gained a lot more attention for what it didn't say, than for what it did say.

It was the announcement that Dan Wallace, 46-year-old Nova Scotian who has been regarded as one of the brightest young administrators in the public service since 1952, was joining the staff of the Prime Minister's office. He's a product, in the civil service, of the old wartime Information Board and the National Film Board, and became a very well-known figure as Executive Assistant to the Minister in Paul Martin's Health and Welfare department. Since May, 1945, he has been Chief Secretary of the National Defence department.

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LONG-LEGGED NEWCOMER
Julius Caesar imported the first giraffe to Europe in 48 BC, to be exhibited in Rome.

MORE FISH

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates world production of fish now is more than 27,000,000 tons annually.

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