

Advertisement issued in the name 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. F. MAGOR, President  
Subscription rates:  
\$1.00 per month \$1.00 per year \$12.00  
\$1.25 per month \$1.25 per year \$15.00  
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## Youth Needed in Politics

SEVERAL weeks ago at the Liberal nominating convention in Terrace, attention was centred on the need for recruiting more young members into the party. It was felt that locally at least the Liberals were doing too little to arouse the interest of youth. The opinion was that more action, education and imagination were needed to attract young men and women as members, and that failure to do something about it would jeopardize the future of the party in this district.

It is a self-criticism which might very well be heard in other parts of the country. It is not, however, applicable to the Liberals alone. In the Canadian Commentator, a new publication designed to provoke thoughtful opinion on national and international affairs, editor-in-chief Marcus Long has this to say:

"There are many things which must be done for the Conservative party if it is ever to become more than an angry voice in Canadian politics. The most important is to make it more attractive to young Canadians."

"It cannot do this so long as it appears to be a hangover from the nineteenth century, and sounds like the last faint voice of imperialism."

"The Conservatives must show that they have come to terms with the realities of Canada in the twentieth century and can represent the best interests of all sections of the nation. They have not done so."

"Unless this situation is corrected there is a very real danger the Conservative party will cease to have any influence or appeal. That would be tragic."

For a long time now there has been something too hoary and venerable about Canadian politics. Occasionally a young man will shoot to the front, as did E. Davie Fulton in contending for the Tory leadership, and the federal cabinet includes men still in their forties. But it is remarkable that in so young a country the political leaders generally are of such ripe age. This is not to suggest that we discount the value of maturity. It is, in fact, this very quality which seems to add strength and logic to Canada's voice in international affairs.

However, direction of the country's business will suffer unless youth is encouraged to make itself heard. The quest for public office should not be an afterthought of middle or old age. The training of good leaders starts early. It is the responsibility of all political parties to organize their membership accordingly.

## Those Early Engineers

WITH our amazing engineering of this present day we are inclined to entirely ignore the wonder of those early inventions which initially opened the door to many of today's pieces of "standard equipment."

We owe much, for instance, to the early engineers of ancient Rome. The highways they built throughout the empire endured through many centuries following. Buried stretches of them are always being dug up here and there. And by accident or design, the "tread" of so many Roman chariots and carts measured the same that the ruts worn in these wonderful roads established a sort of "guage" which medieval wagon-makers, perforce, had to follow.

This wheel tread was 4 feet 8½ inches wide, and, the theory goes, when early railroad builders put flanges on stage coaches and "wains," the rails they laid had to be 4 feet 8½ inches apart. Enough of such trackage has been laid during the ensuing years so that when a move toward standardization got under way it swept toward a dimension set, perhaps, in some unknown ancient wheelwright's shop. Today, says the magazine Railway Progress, five-eighths of the world's 800,000 miles of railroads are "standard guage."

Owen Sound Sun-Times

## GEMS OF THOUGHT

He that is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else. — Benjamin Franklin.

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## As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

### Scotch or Scots?

A FEW days ago I got to wondering what the great Robert Louis Stevenson thought of his fellow immortal Scot, Robert Burns.

I had to hunt through a good part of a thirty-volume set of the letters, and works of RLS before I finally found this bit written to Edmund Gosse in July 1870:

"Talking, I say, of Robert Burns, the inspired poet, is a very gay subject for study. I made a kind of chronological study of his loves and lusts, and have been comparatively speechless ever since; I am sorry to say it, but there was something in him of the vulgar, bagman-like professional seducer. Oblige me by taking down and reading, for the hundredth time I hope, his 'Twa Dogs,' and his, 'Address to the Unco Guid.' I am only a Scotchman after all, you see; and when I have beaten Burns, I am driven at once by my parental feelings to console him with a sugar-plum, but hang me if I know anything I like so well as the 'Twa Dogs.' Even a common Englishman may have a glimpse, as it were from Pugnac, of its extraordinary merits."

THUMBLING through Stevenson's letters, I see he was a great admirer of the rising young literary star, Kipling. But he thought Kipling wrote too much, too quickly. Thus in a letter to Henry James in December 1890 RLS said:

"Kipling is by far the most promising young man who has appeared since—ahem—appeared. He amazes me by his precocity and various endowment. But he alarms me by his copiousness and haste. He should shield his fire with both hands . . . I was never capable of—and surely never guilty of—such a debauch of production. At this rate his works will soon fill the habitable globe."

EXACTLY when did the Scots begin to insist that they were Scotsman and not Scotchmen? Evidently the great Scot, Stevenson, never heard of that convention. In any event he writes "I am only a Scotchman." In the whole 30 volumes of the letters and works of this most literate of all Scottish writers is there a single reference to "Scotsmen." If so, I don't find it.

I met a pert little Scottish lassie the last time I was in London who undertook to instruct me in when to use the adjective "Scotch" and when to use the adjective "Scots". You use Scotch for things, like whiskey, said the bonnie lassie. But you must use Scots for persons.

Now I chuckle to find that the great Robert Louis Stevenson knew nothing of this convention, distinction—or affection.

Can any of my good Scottish friends tell me exactly how, when and why the Scotchmen became the Scotsmen?

STEVENSON was quick and sincere in his warm greetings to the young writer Kipling, and they even exchanged a few whalebone letters with RLS putting imaginary sentences into the mouth of Kipling's character Mowgli, which Kipling could not understand.

Kipling even talked of coming to visit the Stevensons in Samoa, but the proposal fell through. Nothing in the way of a real friendship ever developed between the two great writers, between the two great writers, such as existed between Stevenson and Henry James.

STEVENSON fought a long and losing battle against tuberculosis. It is intriguing to think of how different history might have been had our modern drugs been known to the doctors of earlier times.

So far as the layman can understand, Stevenson's lung infection was of the type which the modern anti-TB drugs knock out in a matter of months. Yet even in the last years of the last century medical science was helpless in the face of the great white plague, even to save a generation.

But talking of the untimely

BCE To Spend \$101,900,000 During Year

VANCOUVER — B. C. Electric, giant British Columbia utilities firm, Wednesday announced a record \$101,900,000 expenditure program for the next 12 months.

Nearly 80 per cent of the outlay will go towards electrical construction that will add 200,000 horsepower to the firm's generating capacity, president A. E. (Dan) Granter said.

The major portion of the remaining 20 per cent will be used for expansion of natural gas facilities, completion of the company's new head office building in downtown Vancouver and service expansion on southern Vancouver Island.

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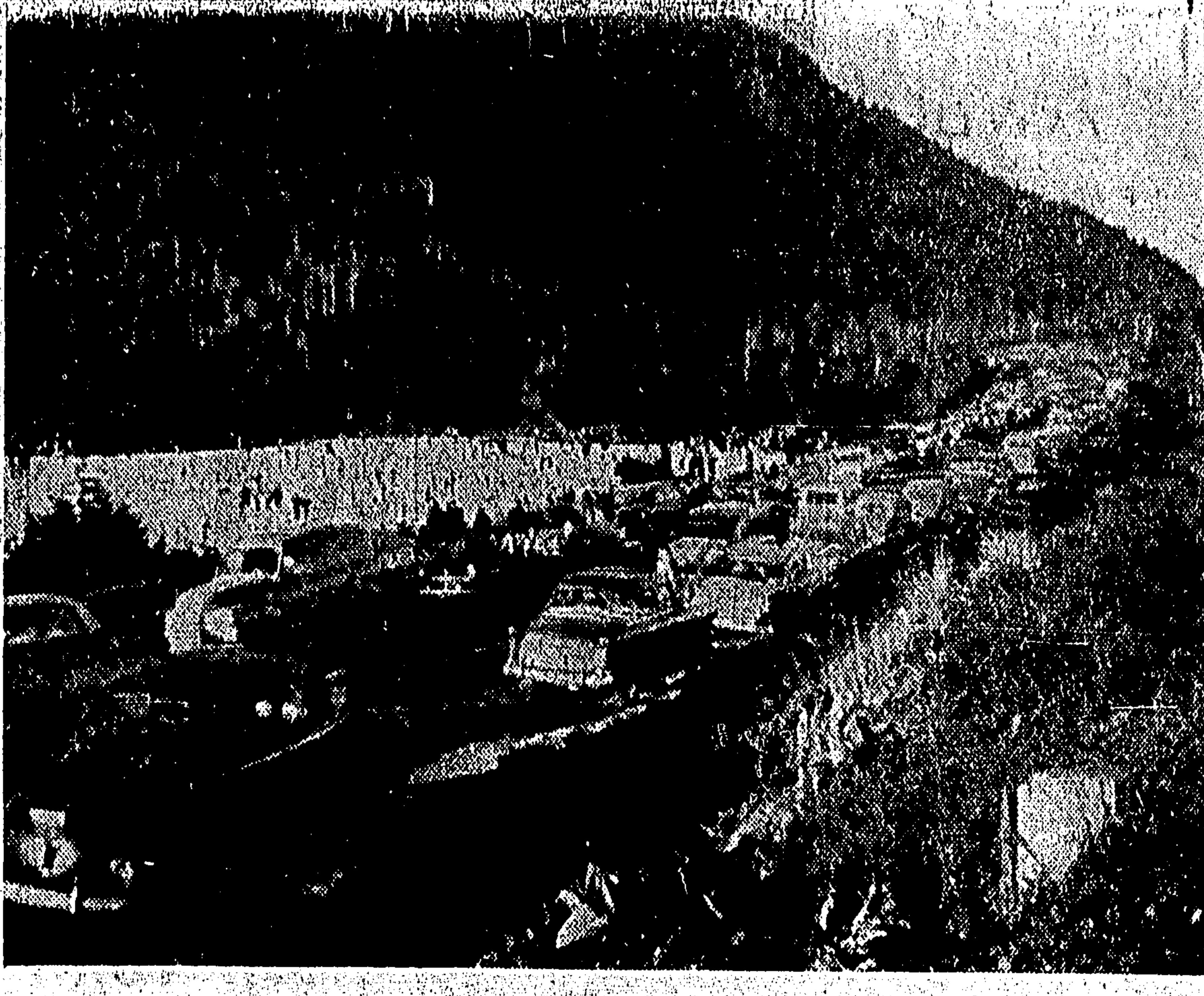


Photo by Si Miner  
NEED FOR ICE ARENA in Prince Rupert is pointed up by tremendous amount of residents who took advantage of prolonged cold spell to skate and play hockey out at Oliver Lake, above. Cars stretching as far as eye can see bordered both sides of road in vicinity of lake. Stores in Prince Rupert did land-office business in skates that will possibly be hung up for another year if extreme cold weather suddenly ends. Arena in city would give both adults and youngsters at least five months skating and provide exercise and entertainment for hundreds. Skates bought this year will be useless to owners if city has mild winter next year.

## Employment Questions And Answers

In this column are questions about unemployment insurance and employment, together with answers received from the Unemployment Insurance Commission. If you are uncertain about any point do not hesitate to send us your question, we will obtain an answer and publish it in this column.

Following are some questions and answers which may be of interest to you.

Q. I would like to know if a man who is married but separated from his wife, by a court order which requires him to pay alimony can receive full benefits if he does not pay this alimony. In other words, can he receive full benefits if he says he is married while he should in reality be considered as a single person? Should his wife report him or is this situation all right?

A. When a court order has been made directing the man to make payments to his wife, the Unemployment Insurance Commission normally assumes that the terms of the order are being complied with and the man may be allowed benefit at the higher rate. It is the responsibility of the court to see that its order is complied with.

Q. I would like to know whether a farmer can receive unemployment insurance benefits under what conditions.

A. Usually a claimant who is employed on his own account in the operation of a farm is not unemployed and therefore cannot be paid unemployment insurance benefit. However, he may be able to qualify for benefit during the farming off-season (October to March inclusive) if he proves (a) that he has at least 30 contribution weeks in the two complete off-seasons (October to March inclusive) preceding his claim, and (b) that his farm work during the off-season is so limited that he could accept full-time work.

Then, to add interest to the spectacle, the PC attack sometimes scores. The PM or one of the other Ministers is stung into making an angry retort. And the truth generally so carefully concealed—that the Opposition's tactics are registering and even drawing blood—is advertised.

When these occur the morale of the PC's rises in a manner that is wonderful to work.

## Premier Opens PGE Terminus

SOUTHERN VANCOUVER, B.C.—The new southern terminus of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway was officially opened for business here Thursday.

Premier Bennett presided at the opening ceremony. He described the 400-mile railroad as a gateway to the "great empire of the north."

PGE trains have used the new terminus since a 41-mile extension from Squamish was completed several months ago at a cost of \$10,000,000.

The premier hinted at eventual extension of the provincially

owned railroad into the Yukon and Alaska.

"This railroad will not only stop in the Peace River area. Of course, it will proceed eventually to the Yukon and Alaska."

Vancouver mayor Fred Hume, one of several speakers at the opening ceremony, said he had thought the railroad "was a wild dream."

"I never thought in my life I'd see it completed," he said.

Earlier Thursday, the PGE completed an inaugural run of a dayliner passenger service from North Vancouver to Prince George.

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## Lord's Day Act Out of Date

### Asserts Jurist

VICTORIA — A county court judge ruled the Lord's Day Act Wednesday as being out of line with modern times.

Judge J. B. Clearihue, in a judgment involving a breach of the act, said something should be done to modify Sunday laws.

"In the light of modern society, the time has arrived for some modification of our Sunday laws in respect to tourism," he said.

"This is a matter for the provincial legislature to carry out and not for the courts," he added.

The crown had appealed against dismissal by subordinate magistrate Fred Baker of Sidney, B.C., of a charge against Ewald Jabs, accused of operating a china shop on Sunday contrary to the Lord's Day Act.

Judge Clearihue reversed the magistrate's decision and fined Jabs \$5 and \$2.50 costs.

Referring to the tourist trade, the Judge said: "When a tourist visits Victoria, he comes in pleasure bent, and Sunday to him is just another day. He wants to be conducted around our city to view our places of interest."

"I have great respect for the Lord's Day Act, and I think it should be respected, but in our modern life it must be respected in a reasonable manner if we want to encourage the tourist traffic which has become, in Victoria, one of our leading industries."

**MODERN LINK**  
British Columbia's forestry service uses 400 radio-telephone sets to link its patrol-boat fleet, rangers and lookout stations.

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