PROVINCIAL LIBRARY
VICTORIA, B. C.

Prince Rupert Daily News

Published at Canada's Most Strategic Pacific Port — And Key to the Great Northwest

VOL. XLVII, No. 227 Telephone 6767 PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1958 Night Calls—Business 6768, Editorial 6769 PRICE TEN CENTS

Premier announces royal probe of power commission financing

FOUR BRITISH COLUMBIA mayors attending a three-day Civil Defence at Arnprior, Ont., include, left to right: Mayor P. J. Lester, of Prince Rupert; Mayor P. B. Scurrah, of Victoria; Mayor F. R. Goldsworthy, of North Vancouver, and Mayor F. H. Jackson, of New Westminster. The conference, called at the request of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, is reviewing the latest developments in Civil Defence. Approximately 100 chief magistrates are attending. —Photo by Newton of Ottawa.

SCs to "destroy forces of evil"

By AL MARKLE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

SIDNEY, B.C. (CP)—Premier Bennett says the government-owned B.C. Power Commission, its financing, debt structure, operating and project costs, and general organization will be investigated by a royal commission.

His announcement at a Chamber of Commerce meeting here, 20 miles north of Victoria, came five days after H. Lee Briggs, former commission general manager, rocketed the BCPC into the headlines with accusations that B.C.'s Social Credit government was juggling its finances to pay off election promises.

BRIGGS READY

Informed of the premier's announcement Mr. Briggs said he "would be glad to appear before" the commission.

"In fact, I'd like to be the very first witness."

The premier was obviously disturbed by the charges. His Monday night speech was one of the most fiery he has delivered in some time.

About 40 minutes of the one and a half hour speech was devoted to a rambling attack on the B.C. press.

"Everybody is against this government," he said.

He accused the newspapers of "dirty politics and dirty criticism," of "throwing sand in the gears," of "writing drivel," and of smearing the Social Credit government "because they can't tell us what to do."

He said the royal commission will be set up "before the week ends" to "get at the truth."

"We are going to end once and for all this smearing . . . all these terrible attacks . . .

"We're going to destroy the forces of evil in this province, We're going to meet them head on . . . These forces are everywhere."

Mr. Briggs' statements, he said, were "eyewash, untruths."

INCREASED COSTS

The BCPC was bearing "a great increase in costs" at this time.

He gave as an example the Strathcona development at Buttle Lake, estimated to cost $19,000,000, but actually costing more than $34,000,000.

He said repeatedly the $28,000,000 debt on the government's books, representing guaranteed loans for the power commission, is not and never has been a direct debt.

Therefore, he said, clearing it off by refinancing by the BCPC wouldn't help free the province of debt any quicker.

In Mr. Briggs original statement, he said the refinancing would cost the commission $215,000 a year in extra interest charges.

SAW DEFICIT

Mr. Bennett said that on Sept. 11 Mr. Briggs asked him to approve a 12-per-cent general rate increase to commission customers, and at that time presented a financial projection showing the BCPC would have a deficit for the next two years.

He said while investigations were being made to see whether there was any way a rate increase could be avoided—possibly by a subsidy—Mr. Briggs "issued political statements wholesale, trying to throw suspicion on the government."

Strachan says probe is "start"

VANCOUVER (CP)—CCF leader Robert Strachan said Monday night he will feel free to discuss B.C. Power Commission affairs during the Trail by-election despite Premier Bennett's announcement of a royal commission.

"If the Premier's intention was to stop discussion of the power comission question, then he's in for a surprise," Mr. Strachan said in commenting on the premier's announcement.

"I will certainly feel free to discuss it. It's not sub judice. And I must discuss it because the government is on trial in Trail today."

Mr. Strachan said he was disappointed the premier had not called a legislative inquiry instead of the royal commission, but he nevertheless accepted the commission "as a start towards learning the truth."

Liberal leader Arthur Laing, contacted in Ottawa, said Premier Bennett instituted the probe to "detract public attention."

PARTNER FOR PRINCESS: Princess Margaret does the Portland fancy jig with 25-year-old miner Jackie Toaduff at a ball in her honor recently on London. It was the second time that the champion clog dancer had been a partner of Princess Margaret at folk dances. —CP Photo from UKIO.

Prince George youth stripped, set alight by four hoodlums

VANCOUVER (CP)—Four young hoodlums set an 18-year-old youth's naked body on fire with lighter fluid when he threatened to tell of their burglary plans, a relative of the boy told police Mrs. Verda Kreiger, said her brother-in-law Gerhard Kreiger told her of the attack when she visited him in a New Westminster hospital Monday night.

She said Krueger told her he met the four youths aged between 18 and 21 and went for a ride in their car.

He threatened to tell police when he heard them planning a burglary and was driven to a dark street where his clothing was ripped off, lighter fluid poured over his body and set ablaze.

Afterwards he was told to put on his clothing and driven home.

Kreiger, who arrived from Prince George four weeks ago, was reported in satisfactory condition in hospital with second degree burns.

His landlady told police he was shaking with fear and pain and told them an incoherent story after he staggered into the house.

BLIZZARD BLASTS WINNIPEG, HALTS WORK, COMMUNICATIONS

WINNIPEG (CP)—A blinding blizzard swept Southern Manitoba today, dumping nine inches of snow on Winnipeg between midnight and 6 a.m. as winds up to 46 miles an hour swept the Red River valley.

Rain, freezing rain and freezing drizzle hit Northwestern Ontario on the eastern side of a storm that blasted north from Minnesota during the night.

More of the wintry blast was forecast for the remainder of the day.

The weather office issued weather warnings for Southern Manitoba where road transportation was brought almost to a standstill by the storm. Few vehicles moved on the streets of Winnipeg.

Communications were knocked out temporarily at various places, but no serious accidents or deaths had been reported.

Accidental drowning verdict on fisherman

A verdict of accidental death by drowning was brought in by a coroner's jury last night inquiring into the death of well-known Port Simpson fisherman Robert William Bryant, 49.

Mr. Bryant's body was found in the water near Cow Bay Floats Saturday morning by his nephew, James Bryant. He became the object of a search Friday when the boat, the Lucky 13, was discovered swamped at Cow Bay.

The jury added that Mr. Bryant slipped on the icy surface of his vessel and fell into the water.

Mr. A. H. Hale, assistant production manager of Canadian Fishing Company told the jury that two or three seams on the boat showed loose caulking and the boat could have easily filled up with water overnight because of them.

Mr. Hale said that the fishing dock wharf, floats and most of the fishing boats were slightly covered with frost on the day of the accident.

Mr. Bryant could have come down to his boat and seeing that it was filled with water he might have attempted to bail it out and while doing so slipped on he icy surface and fallen into the water, Mr. Hale said.

Mr. Hale told the jury that there was no other visible damage to the boat.

Dr. R. B. Smith said that Mr. Bryant met his death from asphyxiation by drowning.

The jury convened under coroner George J. Dawes. William Scuby was jury foreman.

A memorial service will be held 7 o'clock tonight at Ferguson Funeral Home.

Funeral is set for 2 p.m. tomorrow also at Ferguson Funeral Home.

Rev. Dr. R. W. K. Elliott will officiate at both services. Interment will follow in the Fairview Cemetery.

VANCOUVER (CP)—A Vancouver company which operated a planing mill at Quesnel has been awarded $46,000 for the loss of the mill by fire.

ORMES
DRUGS LTD.
DIAL
2151

Only children observing holiday

It is British Columbia's 100th birthday tomorrow but only the school children are observing it in Prince Rupert.

On November 19, 1858, the mainland colony of British Columbia was proclaimed and Governor James Douglas was sworn in by Judge Matthew Begbie.

A survey here shows that the Douglas Day, as tomorrow is called, is "just another working day for provincial government employees" according to Governemnt Agent Howard Harding.

Gordon Simpson, manager of the local Unemployment insurance commission says his office will be open "for business as usual." Other federal government services, the Post Office, the Canadian government elevator and the Department of Transport are also remaining open.

R. W. Long, city clerk-comptroller said the City Hall staff will be working.

However, all over the province, school children will observe the day that New Caledonia became British Columbia.

PACKERS TIE SECOND GAME

MOSCOW (AP)—The Kelowna Packers today battled to a 1-1 tie with a Russian All-Star squad, in the second of five exhibition games scheduled in the Soviet capital.

The Packers, first Canadian team ever to play in Moscow were defeated 4-3 in their first game Sunday. The two teams meet again tomorrow, Friday and Sunday. They return home November 24.

Retarded children's week here

The Society for Retarded Children of Prince Rupert Sunday joined 116 other associations throughout Canada who are commemorating Retarded Children's Week, November 16 to 27, in order to bring the facts of mental retardation before the public.

The Society's president, George W. Cook, said today that it was through the "wonderful efforts" of individuals and city groups, that a school, now known as "Jack and Jill," was opened for retarded children in September of 1956.

He said that it was reported that three out of every 100 children in every community was to some degree mentally retarded, and the problem that has been largely ignored for centuries was finally receiving the attention it deserved.

Mrs. W. A. Goepel, executive director of the Association for Retarded children of British Columbia will be a guest in the city November 26, and will address the public on the work of the association.

BAIL SET AT $20,000

H.W. Gray freed pending appeal

VANCOUVER (CP)—Timber firm executive H. Wilson Gray today was released on $20,000 bail, pending an appeal against his conviction on bribery and conspiracy charges.

Gray, who with Robert Sommers former forest minister, was sentenced to five year's imprisonment, was released by Mr. Justice H. W. Davey.

Mr. Justice Davey made the provision that Gray's appeal must be heard at the next sitting of the Court of Appeal which is in January.

He also cautioned Gray not to leave British Columbia.

The application for Gray's release from Oakalla Prison Farm was made by his counsel J. R. Nicholson.

Mr. Nicholson filed the appeal yesterday on behalf of Gray and two of his companies, Pacific Coast Services and Evergreen Lumber Sales, which were fined a total of $19,250.

He suggested bail of $15,000.

Today, after Mr. Justice Davey's ruling, Mr. Nicholson said that the $20,000 bail would be posted within the next day or so.

However, Gray, who with Sommers had already started to serve five one-year terms, was able to leave Oakalla immediately.

NANAIMO (CP)—A Vancouver Island magistrate says minors found in beer parlors should be sent to jail and not fined.

Magistrate Lionel Beevor-Potts of Nanaimo told the Local Council of Women Monday night that penalties under the B.C. Liquor Control Act are not stringent enough to deter to any extent under-age children.

Freight rise said to cost B.C. "millions"

VANCOUVER (CP)—The Province says British Columbia will lose, directly and indirectly, between $5,000,000 and $10,000,000 due to the 17-per-cent freight rate increase granted the railways Monday.

It says the increase hits all B.C. consumers and will:

1. Boost the price "of a host" of consumer goods—autos, appliances, some canned goods, hardware, clothing and other.

2. Hit B.C. secondary industries and reduce the sales of some of them in the Prairie market.

3. Increase some construction costs in the province.

4. Increase fruit growers' costs by $250,000 per crop year.

Four Trail candidates named

TRAIL (CP)—Barrister Donald L. Brothers, unsuccessful Social Credit candidate for Kootenay West in last year's federal election Monday night was named to represent Social Credit in the Dec. 15 Rossland-Trail by-election.

More than 200 voting delegates chose Brothers over Mayor Harold S. Elmes of Rossland.

The Socred nominating convention brought to four the number of candidates elected to date. Others are Alex Brokenshire, Conservative; F. E. DeVito, CCF; and Dr. M. E. Krause, Liberals. All candidates are from Trail.

Supplier fined $50

A Terrace man, Joseph Gauthier, 32, was fined a total of $60 costs after he was found guilty by the magistrate in Port Edward police court yesterday to two charges of supplying Indian with an intoxicant and driving a motor vehicle contrary to the restrictions on his driver's licence.

Gauthier was fined $50, costs or in default of payment sentenced to 20 days in jail on the supplying charge and $10, costs or in default of payment sentenced to 10 days in jail on the driving charge.

He pleaded not guilty to both charges.

WEATHER

Today will see a lull in the violent storm activity along the coast. However, a new storm is driving in and Wednesday will bring more gales and rain. Forecast: Variable cloudiness with frequent rain and snow along the mainland and a few showers elsewhere. Rain Wednesday. Little change in temperature. Winds southwest 20 rising to 30 near Queen Charlottes. Low today and high Wednesday 35 and 42.

TIDES

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1958
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	08:16	16.2 feet
	20:31	16.5 feet
Low	01:30	7.5 feet
	14:45	0.1 feet

PREPARATION FOR APPLICATION

Citizenship council starting classes tomorrow

This year's course in English and citizenship for newcomers to be conducted by the Prince Rupert Canadian Citizenship Council will stress preparation for the day when new Canadians make their application for Canadian citizenship, W. C. Hankinson, president of the council said today.

Mr. Hankinson said that though the winter season is well advanced the citizenship council will make a determined effort to carry on its work of educating newcomers to Canada, starting at 7:30 tomorrow night.

In previous years discussions of the Canadian scene had been a part of advanced instruction, but the present course will emphasize the steps required for examination on their citizenship applications.

To this end a member of the council's citizenship committee will be present at each Wednesday night meeting to deal specifically with questions applicants may have to face when County Court Judge W. A. Schultz examines them for citizenship.

The meetings for the English and citizenship classes will be held in the HMCS Chatham administration building. Persons interested in or needing the help of the Citizenship council should be there at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Mr Hankinson said that this year the Council "is experimenting with a modest fee system of $2 per month" for lessons.

"We want to see if there is any validity in the frequently expressed contention that students will take their work more seriously if they pay for it."

However, he stressed, persons who are unable to pay will not be turned away and special rates will apply in the case of families.

At a recent meeting of the education committee of the council Edi Elsermann was named chairman. Others present to help plan the year's work were R. R. Wilson, Walter Ziversmith, Mrs. H. T. Ross and Hilda de Motto.