

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the interests 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:  
By mail—per month \$1.00; per year \$12.00  
By carrier—per month \$1.25; per year \$15.00  
Authorized as second-class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

## City Disaster Prevented

THANKS to the nerve and skill of our fire-fighting force, a blaze which might readily have destroyed several buildings and possibly an entire section of the city was vanquished Tuesday night without spreading beyond its dangerous starting point.

Those who watched the McIntyre block go up in flames will agree that for a few tense hours a major disaster threatened Prince Rupert. At times it seemed beyond human resource to stop the fire from setting alight the buildings on either side. If this had happened, nothing could have been done to prevent the blaze from spreading wildly beyond control. In such a closely packed district, the men fighting against it would have been almost helpless.

Although the absence of wind was a fortunate chance, that did not account for the fact that the fire was held in check. For that credit belongs entirely to the firefighters who poured water into the conflagration from every possible vantage point with a persistence and a daring that brought gasps from the watching crowd. They were not there to provide a thrill, but to quell such a blaze nothing short of the boldest action would do. The firemen were equal to it and the measure of their success can be seen now in the group of buildings that stand unscathed around the gutted remains of the McIntyre block.

Confinement of the fire carried little consolation for those whose property was destroyed or damaged. As a result of the incident, there are families and businesses which are faced with hard times ahead and the public will extend to them sympathy and, it is hoped, whatever help it can. But the tragedy might have been so much worse that we must pay tribute to all those who had a part in combatting it. In particular, it was noticeable what an effective part members of the auxiliary force played in this emergency. It was their first call to major action since the move was made to establish such a force, and clearly they have proved their worth.

At times like this there is always the hope that the occasion will serve as a warning to take the utmost care where fire threatens. Smoking in bed, a match carelessly thrown or an electrical defect that should have been fixed are just a few of the preventable causes that so often lead to disaster. Put more personally, the warning could read: "Look at those ashes—they might have been your own."

## Unreliable Signs

DURING the speculation about the make-up of the new British cabinet some diplomatic observers in London were reported drawing conclusions from the expressions of ministers in the old cabinet. Those who were smiling, it was presumed, were about to be promoted to higher posts; those who appeared downcast were being demoted, or let go altogether. The results hardly confirmed the forecasts.

In the present state of the world in general, and politics in particular, we wonder how long this test will have any validity. The time must surely be approaching when a happy smiling face will indicate that a politician is being retired, while yonder "the condemned man ate a hearty breakfast" expression will indicate that its possessor has just been made foreign secretary and assigned to solving the problems of the Middle East.

—Edmonton Journal.

### Scriptures

Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shall find it after many days. Ecclesiastes 11:1.  
Bread is sometimes sown in paddies still under some water, so the seed is not lost. No good seed is ever lost.

## UNBEATABLE . . .

for Style - Quality - Value

That's

Gordon & Anderson

See The New 4 Piece

Sectional Sofa

PRICED  
FROM

\$395.00

### LETTER BOX

## Says Fishermen Hit By Machinery Tax

The Editor,

The Daily News,  
In the December issue of your paper reporting the last meeting of the City Council I was so astounded at the passing of the Machinery tax that I sat down and wrote you. On second thought I did not mail the letter because I felt fishermen's organizations representing me and other fishermen should do the protesting.

I have now waited six weeks, but so far have not seen one word in the press from any fishermen's organization respecting this tax, hence I must conclude that these organizations do not intend to make any public protest. Their inaction therefore, prompts me to plead my case individually.

I have been a commercial fisherman in northern B.C. since 1921 with the exception of eight years I was manager of the local Fishermen's Co-op., two years as manager of the Fishermen's Federation and another two years regaining my health and becoming re-established in the fishing industry. At present I own a 25-ton fishing vessel, a home in the city and make my living fishing.

At the last Council meeting of 1956 the Mayor, using the ultimate of autocracy permitted under our democratic system and without the confidence of the citizens, decreed that there should be a Machinery tax, which in effect from a taxation point of view, divided the citizens of Prince Rupert into a major favored group and a minor unfavored group (the fishermen).

First of all, who ultimately pays the Machinery tax?

The Columbia Cellulose Co. will not pay any of this tax as they are outside the city limits and the Council's jurisdiction for general taxation.

I am informed that the Northern B.C. Power Co. will not be paying any of this tax either.

The local machine shops and boat shops inform me that they will hand the tax on to their patrons, mostly fishermen. This is already evidenced by one engine company raising their charge out time from \$4.00 per hour to \$4.75.

The Fishermen's Co-op. will have to deduct the amount they will have to pay directly from the fishermen's income.

The fishing companies will be placed in the position of having to pay less for the fish.

The fisherman has no one to pass the tax on to so he finds himself faced with paying this tax on the repairs of his vessel and deducted from his income.

This is the point; the fisherman and other citizens of Prince Rupert pay the same mill rate on property and improvements, but the fisherman has an added amount taken from him on repairs to his vessel and his earnings which goes into the same general revenue of the city.

Those responsible for the inauguration of this Machinery

### Employment Questions And Answers

In this column are questions about unemployment insurance and employment, together with answers received from the Employment 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. My salary has just been raised to \$5,000 a year. I have been paying unemployment insurance since it started and I would like to continue and have protection. Can I do this?

A. You can continue making contributions by completing the necessary form indicating that you wish to do this. However, your employer in that case can require you to pay both your and the employer's share. Consult the nearest National Employment Office to obtain the form.

Q. My wife lost her job some weeks ago and is now drawing \$10.00 a week unemployment insurance benefits. I am now out of work but I am told I can only draw \$20.00 a week. What is the reason for the difference?

A. A wife is not considered a dependent while she is drawing unemployment insurance in excess of \$14.00 a week end, therefore, you are now drawing the single rate which is \$23.00.

tax schemed it in a very cunning and vicious manner. The mill rate was decreased to gain favor with the majority of property holders. This scop I am sure influenced the voting of some council members in favor of this tax.

Had the fishermen's organizations, and I name them: The Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-Op. Assn., The Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, The United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, The Canadian Fishing Vessel Owners' Association and the B.C. Trollers' Association, protested the Machinery tax at the same time as did the Chamber of Commerce and the Daily News, I am sure the degree of public protest raised would have made it mandatory for the Council to appeal this tax at the earliest opportunity. Because they did not, their silence implies consent, which in my opinion constitutes a serious breach in the responsibilities to their membership. Also, I cannot understand their description of the intelligent half of the Council who protested and voted against this tax.

Here are a few possible effects the Machinery tax might have on local established businesses. The boat shops advise me that this tax will place them in an unfair competitive position with boat shops on Digby Island.

It is possible that the Bulkley Valley mills producers previously contemplated moving their bolting plant to Smithers, but the Machinery tax did not encourage them to change their mind.

For many years the fishing companies of this city have been successfully competing against Seattle and Ketchikan for U.S. caught halibut. I know these companies have had to stretch themselves to encourage this trade which has meant millions of pounds extra hauling for the C.N.R. employment for local citizens and a great deal of trade for the city businesses. The Machinery tax is certainly going to place these companies in an unfavorable position to compete for this trade.

The Canadian Fishing Co. could quite easily move their cannery from the Ocean Dock to some site on the Skeena Slough, the B.C. Packers move their meal and oil plant to Sunnyside and I am sure the Co-Op. will now drop the idea of possibly setting up a cannery operation at their Fairview plant.

I do not see what encouragement this tax has for new businesses coming to Rupert, especially when one compares it with the progressive policy followed by a city like New Westminster of living new businesses ten tax free years to become established.

Many fishermen I talk to about the Machinery tax are confused, this is due possibly to the manner in which the City Council sprung this tax on the citizens, I am sure all confusion will be cleared up when they see the amount deducted from their earnings and added to their repair bills. I am afraid the Board of Trade and management of the Co-Op. will come in for some sharp criticism for not protesting this tax publicly and vigorously.

I am a member of the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-Op. Assn. and I publicly request that they place a letter to the public in the Daily News outlining their stand on the Machinery tax. I also ask that machinery tax the Co-Op. will pay in one year and the rate per pound based on the 1956 landings. I think the other fishermen's organizations should make public statements outlining their point of view.

No doubt this Machinery tax will be an issue at the next city election and new persons seeking election to the Council will have to state their position, I do hope that we will have a contestants for Mayor.

In the name of what is just and equitable and is in the best interest for the advancement of this city and the good for all of us may I ask your paper to use every effort to have this Machinery Tax rescinded.

I think the stand the Chamber of Commerce took is very commendable and your editorial of January 8 is a correct prediction of the future under this tax, for this is truly the worst legislation ever passed by a City Council of Prince Rupert.

JACK DEANE,

Prince Rupert.

LOWER AUDIENCE  
LONDON (C) Average audience for BBC radio programs in 1956 was 4,700,000, about 100,000 lower than in 1955.

"Captain Morgan's in Town!"

**Captain Morgan**  
RUM

BLACK LABEL • DE LUXE

This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia

### Do It Yourself

## HERE'S HOW

### To Do It — To Make It — To Fix It

By PETER WHITTALL

### Attractive Divider Has Many Uses

This is one of a series of columns by Peter Whittall on expertly-designed major projects by which the handyman can add beauty and utility to every room of the house.

The open planning of homes today makes extensive use of room dividers.

They separate or define the living and play areas of the home, or the study and dining areas, or the living room and entry hall.

Good dividers serve four distinct and desirable functions — they form a division, add a decorative touch, and provide shelves or cupboards for the rooms or areas on each side.

The entrance-living room divider outlined here has many features to recommend it to new home owners and amateur carpenters.

It is possible that the Bulkley Valley mills producers previously contemplated moving their bolting plant to Smithers, but the Machinery tax did not encourage them to change their mind.

For many years the fishing companies of this city have been successfully competing against Seattle and Ketchikan for U.S. caught halibut. I know these companies have had to stretch themselves to encourage this trade which has meant millions of pounds extra hauling for the C.N.R. employment for local citizens and a great deal of trade for the city businesses. The Machinery tax is certainly going to place these companies in an unfavorable position to compete for this trade.

The Canadian Fishing Co. could quite easily move their cannery from the Ocean Dock to some site on the Skeena Slough, the B.C. Packers move their meal and oil plant to Sunnyside and I am sure the Co-Op. will now drop the idea of possibly setting up a cannery operation at their Fairview plant.

I do not see what encouragement this tax has for new businesses coming to Rupert, especially when one compares it with the progressive policy followed by a city like New Westminster of living new businesses ten tax free years to become established.

Many fishermen I talk to about the Machinery tax are confused, this is due possibly to the manner in which the City Council sprung this tax on the citizens, I am sure all confusion will be cleared up when they see the amount deducted from their earnings and added to their repair bills. I am afraid the Board of Trade and management of the Co-Op. will come in for some sharp criticism for not protesting this tax publicly and vigorously.

I am a member of the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-Op. Assn. and I publicly request that they place a letter to the public in the Daily News outlining their stand on the Machinery tax. I also ask that machinery tax the Co-Op. will pay in one year and the rate per pound based on the 1956 landings. I think the other fishermen's organizations should make public statements outlining their point of view.

NO DOUBT this Machinery tax will be an issue at the next city election and new persons seeking election to the Council will have to state their position, I do hope that we will have a contestants for Mayor.

In the name of what is just and equitable and is in the best interest for the advancement of this city and the good for all of us may I ask your paper to use every effort to have this Machinery Tax rescinded.

I think the stand the Chamber of Commerce took is very commendable and your editorial of January 8 is a correct prediction of the future under this tax, for this is truly the worst legislation ever passed by a City Council of Prince Rupert.

JACK DEANE,

Prince Rupert.

LOWER AUDIENCE  
LONDON (C) Average audience for BBC radio programs in 1956 was 4,700,000, about 100,000 lower than in 1955.

THE ALL HAIR THE PONY TAIL...

THE NEW JUNIOR PONY TAIL®

These new 'Campus Trend' casuals for teenagers will be the rage this spring in your set. Black, Buck or Charcoal. Reasonably priced at

Only \$5.95

FAMILY SHOE STORE LTD.

638 West 3rd Ave.

Phone 4132

COATS!

COATS!