

The Daily News

The Leading Newspaper and the Largest Circulation in Northern B. C.
Published by the Prince Rupert Publishing Company, Limited

DAILY AND WEEKLY

TRANSIENT DISPLAY ADVERTISING—50 cents per inch. Contract rates on application.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—To Canada, United States and Mexico—DAILY, 50c per month, or \$5.00 per year, in advance. WEEKLY, \$2.00 per year. All Other Countries—Daily, \$8.00 per year; Weekly, \$2.50 per year, strictly in advance.

HEAD OFFICE

Daily News Building, Third Ave., Prince Rupert, B. C. Telephone 98.

BRANCH OFFICES AND AGENCIES

NEW YORK—National Newspaper Bureau, 219 East 23rd St., New York City.

SEATTLE—Puget Sound News Co.

LONDON, ENGLAND—The Clougher Syndicate, Grand Trunk Building, Trafalgar Square.

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DAILY EDITION.



SATURDAY, OCT. 14

TRADING UPON IGNORANCE

Over in England certain ecclesiastical circles, as well as the population of the village of Tivetshall St. Mary, Norfolk, have been vastly entertained of late by an amusing contest which took place between the vicar of the parish and one of his flock. The parishioner, an agricultural laborer, had passed some disparaging comments on the vicar's work, which were resented. Finally, Hodge challenged the vicar to "swap jobs." The vicar promptly consented. The challenger backed out, however, when the vicar placed the following schedule for the laborer to perform as his Saturday's work in the contest:

9.30-10.0—Retranslation of English into Greek.

10.0-11.30—Oecumenical documents of the Faith. Revise the "definition" of the Council of Chalcedon.

11.30-12.30—The Homo-ousian and the Constantinopolitan symbol.

12.30-1.0—The "hapax legomena" of the Apocalypse.

3.0-5.0—House-to-house visiting in St. Mary's.

6.0-6.30—Write out notices for church porches and choose hymns for Sunday.

6.30-9.0—Prepare two sermons and a children's address.

Of course the parson won on a bluff. "Hapax legomena" sounds very formidable—in Greek. The laborer was frightened from his task by an unfamiliar phrase. Possibly he would not have recognized his familiar "cow with a long tail" under the pedantic definition of "a bovine with a caudal appendage of exaggerated longitudinality."

To no brother cleric would the parson have attempted the bluff that he spent his week in retranslating English into Greek, in contemplating the Homo-ousian symbol, in revising the Chalcedonian definition—or even in Saturday afternoon house to house visiting—while two sermons and an address were left till last thing on Saturday evening.

Nor is it at all likely that any English parson in this day of sweat shop evils and rack rented peasantry, would waste time in preparing a revised definition of a question that even in 451 A. D. possessed no interest for the people at large. Indeed, on the other hand it is quite probable that Hodge was quite capable of the job, had the parson merely explained to him that the Chalcedonian problem was as to whether two perfect and complete natures could live in unison in one body. Hodge was beaten on a bluff.

The little incident, amusing in its way, has its bearing, upon the broad public issues of real life.

How many people, for instance, were stampeded during the recent election, just as easily as was Hodge by his smart-Alick vicar, by the fear of something that looked big and terrible because they didn't understand it. The annexation cry was an appeal to blind fear. The "save our natural resources for ourselves" cry was even more palpably a cry that depended for its success upon reaching a public so ignorant of elementary economics that they could not realise that progress waits on the sale of our natural resources.

Not one man in a thousand who voted against reciprocity, has ever bothered to think for himself that the deficit in our balance of trade with the United States which he was anxious should not be paid in natural products, must else be paid in good Canadian coin.

Members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association who talked to such good effect in the East about "the balance of trade," "saving Canada for the Empire," "saving Canada for the Canadians," etc., traded as much on the ignorance of the Canadian voters as did the English parson on his less literate parishioner.

Prince Rupert and the Skeena district may well feel proud of the fact that they withstood the appeals to ignorance and cast a rational and enlightened opinion on the recent reciprocity proposals.

AT THE EMPRESS THEATRE

T-O-N-I-G-H-T

A Swedish Comedy with a laugh a minute

"Ole Olson"

Mr. Dave Williams in the title roll

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Letters to the Editor

ABOUT THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SCHOOL MEDALS

Dear Sir,—Lord Dufferin, in 1876, introduced the custom of donating annually certain bronze medals, to be awarded to the pupils of the public schools of the Province of British Columbia, upon the results of the high school entrance examination, a custom which has been kept up to this day. His Excellency Earl Grey, very generously increased the number of these medals from 4 to 15.

These 15 bronze medals, have been distributed during the past six years, in British Columbia, in such an unfair and unsatisfactory manner as to bring little honor, either to the donor or to the recipient.

For instance, in 1906, the first year the 15 medals were distributed one was given to a school district where there was no competition, and the pupil to whom it was awarded got 634 credit marks, and ranked 48 in the Province; whilst the district that ranked first in the Province, where 6 passed the examination and the head pupil got 842 marks, got no medal. Another district, which ranked 55, where 8 passed the examination and the head pupil got only 609 marks, got a medal. The district that ranked third in the Province, where 7 passed, and the head pupil got 831 marks, got no medal; whilst a medal was given to a district that ranked 32 where 5 passed, and the head pupil got 677 marks.

This shows clearly that neither competition nor excellence in scholarship cut much figure in the distribution.

In 1911, a medal has again been given to a district that ranked 55 where 7 passed the examination, and the head pupil got 632 marks; whilst the district that ranked third where 14 passed the examination, and the head pupil got 827 marks, got no medal. There are many instances of similar unfair awards.

The first explanation vouchsafed by the department for such vagaries was, that these bronze medals were given to districts where a high school was established. When this explanation was published in the press, a district where there has been a high school since 1903 demanded why it had not gotten a medal in 1906, or 1907, or 1908. The explanation was then given that these medals were awarded to districts where there was the most competition at the high school entrance examination. The fact is that neither explanation is correct.

In 1907, two districts without a high school got a medal and two districts with a high school got no medal. In 1908, a medal was actually taken away from a district with a high school for 6 years where 3 pupils passed. One was given to a district with no high school where 12 passed, while another district with a high school for 5 years where 17 pupils passed got no medal.

It is very gratifying to read in the speech of His Excellency Earl Grey to the boys of Trinity School, Port Hope. "There was something rotten in the character of Canada, if her sports were not quite straight or fair," and "to give no countenance to those who did not play the game fair."

The foregoing shows that there will have to be an understanding with the McBride government that those bronze medals will be distributed, in the future, according to some fixed principle, so that there will be no chance of a recurrence of anything like the incidents cited above, whilst H. R. H. the Duke of Cornwall, is our Governor-General.

On behalf of the pupils of the Public Schools, of the Province of British Columbia.

JOHN N. MUIR.

Barrister and Solicitor.

107 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa,
September 28, 1911.



MR. D. WILLIAMS AS "OLE OLSON"

In the Swedish Comedy "Ole Olson" at Empress Theatre tonight

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AGENT

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Read The Daily News

SIZE UP WOODWORTH

Party of Would-be Station Men
Make the Trip to the Lake
Today.

By the launch Wolverine today a party of some twenty intending bidders for the station work clearance of Woodworth Lake shores left the Rupert Marine wharf. They were landed at the Lake Shawatans outlet and canoed across to the Woodworth trail. They will size up the work and conditions for the purpose of bidding their price on the work.

For row boats and launches
Telephone 320 green. Davis
Boat House.

Another Great Story

THE DAILY NEWS READERS HAVE ANOTHER TREAT IN STORE FOR THEM



The News has received so many letters of appreciation from its readers for its enterprise and judgment in securing the serial rights of Captain Clive Wolley's great story, "The Tenderfoot's Wooing," that it has gone still further.

The News has secured the serial rights for
Louis Tracy's Great New Story

"The Pillar of Light"

and will start the story Next Week.

Louis Tracy is the greatest writer of fascinating adventure stories in England.—His plots are vigorous.—His characters are lifelike. There is not a dull paragraph. His stories are models of good English too. . . .

What The Pillar of Light Is

The "Pillar of Light" is a sea story of love and adventure. As you may guess the "Pillar of Light" is a lighthouse. The story concerns the romance of Stephen Brand the lighthouse keeper and man of mystery. It is a story of heroic deeds in many lands. It will hold you to the very last word and delight you all the time. In the end you will see the greater meaning of the title "The Pillar of Light. : : :

This story is exclusive in British Columbia to the Daily News and its readers. See that you get the story from the start by having your name entered on the Daily News books as a subscriber.

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