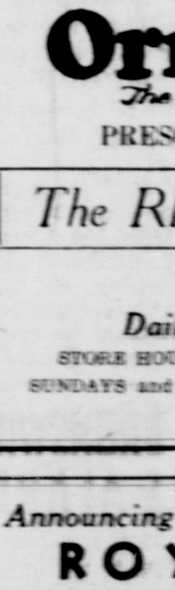

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VICTORIA DAY

OFFICE-FAGGED and chore-weary Canadians can blame strict tradition ... fixed status for blitzing thoughts of marking Queen Victoria's birthday with today's trend to long week-ends.

For although it is 128 years since Alexandrina Victoria's birthday and 110 years since she ascended the throne, this Dominion sticks strictly to procedure and again marks tomorrow—long week-end or no—as Victoria Day.

Canadian observance and acceptance of May 24 to honor the memory of Victoria the Good is unique in the British Empire, for Canada is the only dominion to set aside the day as a national holiday. Other members of the Commonwealth merge it with Empire Day.

Victoria's reign lasted 63 years. Not only did she consolidate her throne and empire, she captivated the people and through shrewdness and sheer faith in a Britain which had seen the industrial revolution arrive and awaited the coming of a new era of commercial development, won the awe of boundary-makers such as Bismark and politicians such as Disraeli and Gladstone.

Shortly before he died, William IV said to his niece:

". . . a good woman and a good queen. It will touch every sailor's heart to have a girl queen to fight for. They'll be tatooing her face on their arms, and I'll be bound they'll think she was christened after Nelson's ship."

While many of her counsellors were perturbed when the Chartist movement in 1839 brought to the House of Commons a petition signed by 1,280,000 of her subjects asking greater representation for Britain's working people, Victoria remained calm and sure.

Her reign was marked by great colonial expansion and the growth of power on land and sea. The Queen became Empress of India and it was during her reign that the Dominion of Canada grew from a group of scattered colonies to a strong confederation under the British flag.

And in these days of vigorous pursuit of antidotes to man's physical ills, it is interesting to recall that the girl queen who was to guide an empire through its most turbulent years—was the first member of Britain's royal family to be vaccinated. Yes, she did what any modern six-week-old lassie would do—she yelled a blue streak!

* * *

AN OUTSTANDING VISITOR

PRINCE RUPERT is full of visitors today, the Shriners' ceremonial being a spectacular affair which is attracting a lot of attention, but an outstanding guest apart from all this is C. Gordon Cockshutt, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and one of Eastern Canada's leading industrialists. He and his party left the Foreign Trade Conference of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce at Vancouver before its conclusion to fly to Prince Rupert for the express purpose of visiting the local Chamber and its members. It may be of some significance and certainly of satisfaction to us that we are considered of sufficient importance for a busy and prominent man like Mr. Cockshutt to take time out from his crowded schedule of appointments which take him back and forth across Canada to come here at this time. A man of broad views on economics and political matters, a member of the so-called capitalistic class himself but known for his generous and sympathetic views toward labor, Mr. Cockshutt should have an interesting message for the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce which has arranged a dinner in his honor tonight.

* * *

GOOD LUCK, KINSMEN

SOMEWHAT OVERSHADOWED as it might be by the big Shriners' ceremonial proceedings, we would like to put in a good word for the Kinsmen and their Queen of the May celebration tomorrow and bespeak support for the event. Those who climb the hill on Victoria Day to patronize the celebration and otherwise support the various events will be having a good time for themselves and will be helping along the Kinsmen in their worthy objective of sending more kiddies to camp this summer. The camp undertaking was started last year and was greatly appreciated by all the youngsters who were able to go. A big and better camp is planned this year. The Kinsmen are due appreciation for this and other of their community benefactions.

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LETTERBOX

OUR MAIN STREET

Editor, Daily News:

Today I walked our main Street—Third Avenue. The sun shone in all its glory from an almost perfect blue sky. Its brightness seemed to radiate from the faces of the multitude. Even the flowers, vegetables and fruits in the shop windows seemed to take on a deeper and more pleasing hue.

I met businessmen seeming to walk more carefree than usual. The loungers still hugged the street corners but still basked in the sun. Tradesmen whistled. Men about town looking satiated and jovial. Lads selling their papers exchanged bright sarcasms. Mothers hustled home with the groceries. High school girls full of vivacity and mirth of youth. Young matrons wheeled their offspring three abreast, lazily taking their time, wrapped up in the seriousness of motherhood and knitting. So deeply engrossed they were oblivious that pedestrians had to pass to either extreme of the pavement in order to continue on their journey. No one seemed to mind. The sun was shining. Everyone seemed in good spirits. The shabbiest gown or coat appeared to take on new life from the faces above them which were radiating smiles and good humor. It was wonderful. It took me back to the words of an old song, "After the rain time, there's always the sunshine. Shadows will fade with the dawn."

Then I passed a store window and saw the word "Broadway." My mind commenced to travel, functioning back and forth. Yes—I averred—this could be Prince Rupert's Broadway or Main Street.

Then I recalled an article I had read which resented the name Main Street being given to any thoroughfare—and I pondered. Truly there is nothing pleasing to the ear in its sound. But deep thought told me how very much was wrapped up in the name "Main Street," especially if it was properly applied, and to a stranger visiting the city for the first time its importance in producing effect on reason.

Certainly that must be the business centre of the city. Usually the strength on which a city is built—the system from which all avenues branched. Yes—a distinguishment which, even though there is nothing euphonious in the sound of the word proper, is far greater than sound. Its powerful suggestion of thought, because usually better known than the average avenue or street in any city.

Whew! What was I doing? What would Prince Rupertians think if they but knew my thoughts—and then—before me stood the Court House amidst its beautiful surroundings. Our main Street had either a beautiful beginning or terminal from this source. What matter! What about calling Main Street—Court Avenue. It would have a meaning if one had to be considered.

Returning, I saw I had failed to see with my thoughts so previously occupied, the welcome compliments being paid the distinguished visitors in our midst by the merchants of the city of Prince Rupert, who in turn were also to be complimented by the outstanding recognition of the Nobles of Gizeh Temple in their visit to our northern city on such an eventful occasion.

Wishing that Old Man Sol may condescend to shower us with his continued blessings to the betterment of their visit amongst us—and there I was again with Main Street—wondering how many of these visitors came from cities with a thoroughfare named Main Street.

EMPIRE DAY IS OBSERVED

Capitol Theatre Is Centre of Patriotic Observance Today

Pupils of the elementary schools of the city thronged to the Capitol Theatre this morning to participate in ceremonial observances of Empire Day.

Sponsored by the Imperial Order, Daugters of the Empire, the services were arranged by Mrs. H. M. Foote, educational secretary of the Order, and conducted by Mrs. D. C. Stuart, Municipal Regent of the local chapters.

An impressive line of dignitaries on the platform included regents of the local chapters, Mrs. D. C. Stuart, Mrs. S. R. Donaldson, Mrs. William Noble and Mrs. G. R. S. Blackaby; standard-bearers with flags, Mrs. S. V. Cox, Mrs. J. Forman, Mrs. M. J. Keays, Mrs. T. A. McMeekin and Miss Marie Mattson, also Mrs. H. M. Foote; principals of the schools, R. G. Moore, J. S. Wilson and T. H. Bateman; Inspector of Schools E. E. Hyndman, Mayor Nora Arnold, Rev. Basil Prockter and a special guest speaker, Rev. Lorin A. C. Smith of Calgary.

There were brief opening remarks by Mrs. D. C. Stuart, a civic welcome from Mayor Arnold and a few words by Rev. Basil Prockter, introducing the speaker.

Rev. Lorin Smith, in a short, appropriate address, likened the members of the British Empire to the fingers of the hands. Each one has some special role to perform but all must work together as a whole to achieve harmony and peace. Politeness, gratitude and a humble attitude should characterize all members of the Commonwealth he admonished.

Numbers on the program contributed by the schools were outstanding.

Songs in which all schools took part were: "O Canada," "Land of Our Birth," "The Empire Is Our Country" and "Land of Hope and Glory." J. S. Wilson conducted the singing with Mrs. G. H. Seaman accompanying on the piano.

Pupils of Conrad Street School, trained by Mrs. Knutson and Mrs. B. Eyolfson, skillfully executed a folk dance and a patriotic drill.

King Edward School gave a clever and original musical play, "Ginger Operetta," a modern interpretation of a fairy tale, directed by J. Goscoe.

Pupils of the Annunciation School performed gracefully in a number entitled the "Morris Dance."

The Borden Street School contributed numbers by the Rythm Band, displaying a fine sense of timing, and choral selections disclosing excellen ttraining. Accompanist for these items was J. A. Rutherford.

Movies shown after the program, by the courtesy of the Capitol Theatre management drew loud applause.

Students of the Booth Memorial High School will meet at the Capitol Theatre this afternoon for similar observance.

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1947

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