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Encouraging Parenthood

A GOVERNMENT statistician points out that, while baby bonuses or family allowances have now been payable in Canada for four years, there has been no increase in the number of babies. The position in Britain, where great inducements have been made to increase the birth rate, seems to be much the same in this regard.

A few statistics in regard to the development of Britain's population in a period of 150 years are of significant interest. In the early 1800's Britain's population was some nine million people, by 1891 it had increased to 29 million and today has reached the 49 million mark. However, present trends have caused some experts to estimate that the population may fall back to some 29 millions by the end of this century.

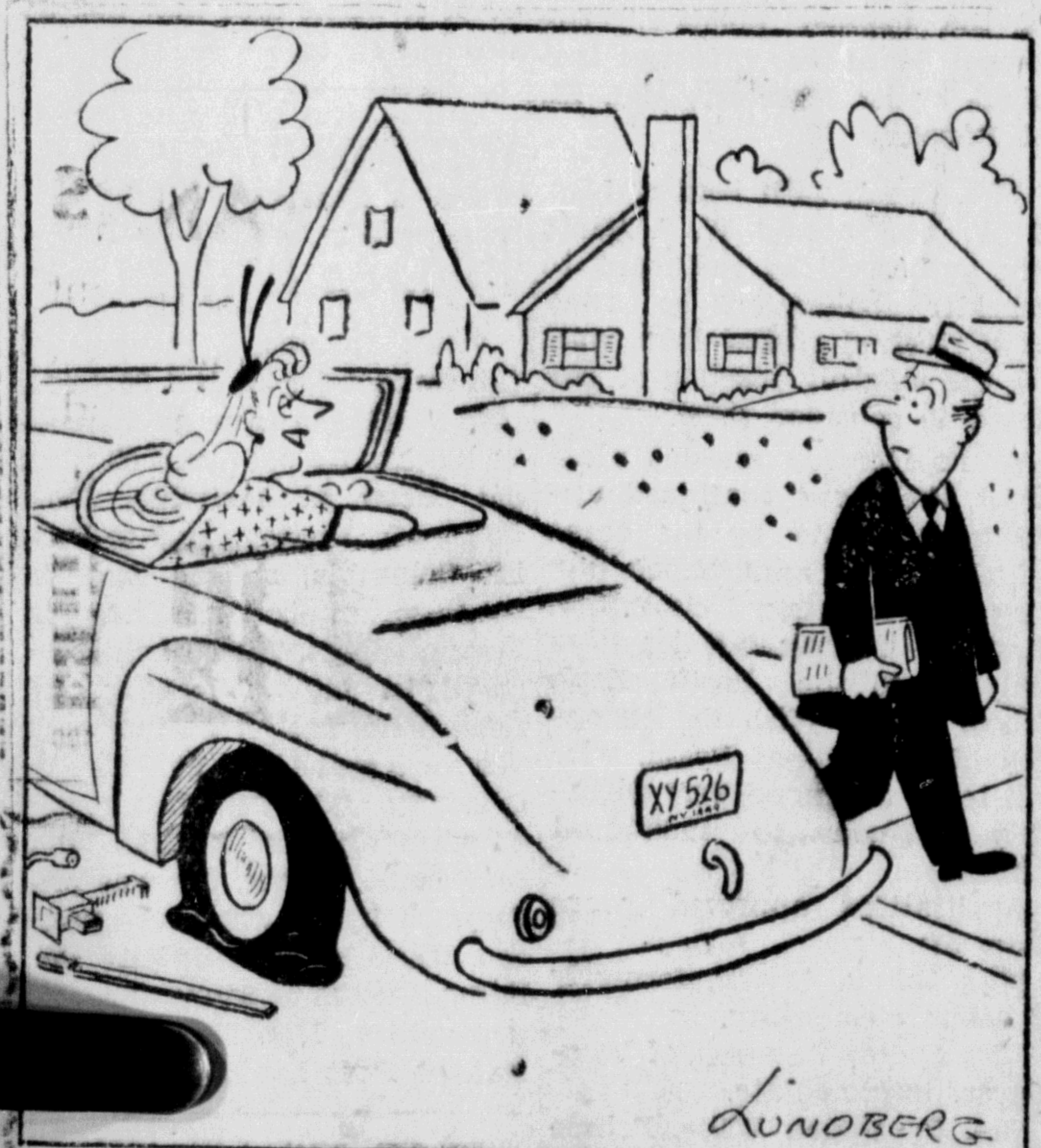
Nowadays British couples limit their families to two children or less whereas ninety years ago couples produced from five to ten children or more. The will to smaller families has been motivated, it is suggested, by the growing burden of parenthood in Western society, the lessened security for large families in the midst of intense competition and the unwillingness of women to assume the ties of motherhood in an era of increased social status and activity.

The British answer today, at least, appears to be in the direction of even greater social assistance to those raising families.

ATLIN REVERSES

FRIENDS OF W. D. SMITH, who was Member of the last Legislative Assembly for Atlin, will regret his now apparent defeat which will be subjected likely to confirmation by a judicial recount in view of the close majority and unusual aspects in regard to rejected and irregularly handled ballots. Mr. Smith was a hard-working and popular member of the last House and represented his riding well. It is ironic enough for him that he should have won in the 1945 election when the Socialists defeated the most of the Coalitionists in this part of the country, only to be knocked out in this latest election when the Coalitionists were being so generally favored, particularly in this area. Such are the fortunes of political war.

Obviously, it was the Indian vote which reversed what appeared to be Mr. Smith's victory on the first preliminary count. The government, already possessing a preponderant majority of seats, can, of course, get along with one less member. The Indians, as newly enfranchised citizens, are fairly entitled to some representation in the House and Mr. Calder was the only candidate of the race in the province. As a member, he will be in a position to give an especial type of service and his career will be followed with particular interest.



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Served Here In Last War

William Murdock Revisits
Prince Rupert After 35 Years
—Recalls Old Days

Not having been here since 1914, William Murdock of Minneapolis who arrived in town last week-end was hardly prepared for the changes noted in Prince Rupert.

"I was hardly able to recognize any place," he remarked. "Prince Rupert is commencing to look like a city."

Mr. Murdock, who is an electrician, first came here a soldier, serving in the Irish Fusiliers under Colonel McSpadden of Vancouver. This was not long after the outbreak of the First Great War in August 1914. At that early stage in Prince Rupert's development, accommodation for a war-time regiment was difficult, if not almost impossible to find, so the guests in the Premier Hotel were turned out and the hotel premises converted into a temporary barracks, which provided adequate shelter for more than a year.

It was a good sized, red-painted frame building on the railway reserve, situated on an elevated site overlooking the railway yards. It stood on ground on the far side of the present cinder pathway extending down to the railway station, and almost opposite the bowling green. The hotel building was sold and dismantled years ago.

Mr. Murdock recalled the interesting days spent here 35 years ago, and had many inquiries to make, as well as speaking of experiences he was able to remember.

Now and then, he mentioned, there was opportunity, apart from military duties, to go fishing, and it was not long before the Fusiliers became well aware of the abundance and fine quality of fish to be caught in and around the harbor of Prince

BAND DELIGHTS HOSPITAL FOLK

One of the delightful but all too few diversions for patients and staff at Miller Bay Hospital came on Wednesday night when the Prince Rupert Shrine Club City Band, twenty-two strong, visited the nearby institution and rendered an open air program which proved delightful to all within listening range.

It was a varied one-hour-and-a-quarter rendition, part being presented in the front of the hospital and part in the rear so that all could have the opportunity of hearing and enjoying.

Bandmaster Peter Lien, as usual, wielded the baton.

On behalf of 154 patients and staff of ninety, Dr. J. D. Galbraith, at the close of the program and while refreshments were being served to the bandmen, expressed appreciation of the visit. Jack Mussallem, replying for the band, said that it had been a pleasure to give pleasure.

Rupert. There was one particularly fine haul made near the western end of the townsite.

Mr. Murdock sailed by the S.S. Prince Rupert last evening en route to Los Angeles, in the course of a vacation tour of the northwest and coast.

The fact of having been here, even so long ago as in 1914, gave added interest to the realization that Prince Rupert's growth today, is along highly substantial lines.

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Ray Reflects and Reminisces

There were two morning and one evening paper—Telegraph, Sun and Globe—publishing in St. John (New Brunswick) back in 1900. The first named had been rescued from the cold shades of opposition in '96 when Laurier succeeded in persuading the electorate to think it was time for a change. The increase in dollars and subscribers was reflected in the appearance of the three-storey building in Canterbury Street and satisfaction was felt by the staff in making fullest use of advantages and conveniences not enjoyed before.

Linotype machines operated on the top floor. News copy was written and edited in a spacious office downstairs having large windows and no blinds. Typewriters had but recently been installed for lead-pencil composition was becoming too great a strain on the forbearance of typesetters. Boss in the news room was Frank McCafferty—lanky, discerning and possessing an X-ray knowledge of city and population. The editor was E. W. McCready, who came from Prince Edward Island and where his father had been a publisher and Ottawa correspondent. McCready, junior, had been in the employ of the New York Herald and helped report the Spanish American War. The business manager was C. J. Milligan. In later years a member of his family joined the Vancouver Province.

The Sun, spokesman for the Conservative way of life, fell on evil days in the decades following the death of Macdonald. The office was close neighbor of the Telegraph and less pretentious in appearance and general equipment. Its editor was Snowden D. Scott who, beginning life as a blacksmith, lived to become one of Canada's distinguished political writers. He resigned a good many years ago to move to British Columbia and become one of the valued members of the Vancouver Province organization. Another figure of note in the Sun was Charley Crandell from Kentville, Nova Scotia who eventually, after moving to Montreal, became president of the British United Press. The Sun's business manager was Colonel Markham, an Englishman who spent a day or so in Prince Rupert years ago, during a tour of the west following retirement.

Police court reporting was never neglected in the Telegraph's daily routine. A seaport city, St. John had no lack of "characters" who, soon or late, would find themselves before the lawful authorities. One day, an unwashed bedraggled looking stranger, charged with having been drunk, as well as disorderly, appeared. In some way he had learned the name of the magistrate was Robert Ritchie—and that he was a stickler for decorum and dignity. The moment the accused entered the dock, he smiled broadly at Magistrate Ritchie and bellowed: "Good morning Robert—my old college friend."

Mr. Ritchie stiffened, constables gasped, and the reporters chuckled.

ISLAND DOCTOR IS COMING HERE

Dr. George Burgess, for the past three years superintendent of the United Church Hospital at Queen Charlotte City, will arrive in Prince Rupert by plane next Monday from the Islands to assume the post of assistant superintendent of Miller Bay Hospital. His wife will arrive a few days later.

Dr. Burgess is a 1945 graduate of the medical college of the University of Toronto and saw service for a time in the Canadian Army.

Dr. Macdonald, at one time located at Hazelton, is coming north from Vancouver to relieve Dr. Burgess at Queen Charlotte City.

Teacher at Port Edward Resigns

The resignation of Miss Evelyn Moret, teacher at the Port Edward school, was accepted with regret by the Prince Rupert School Board at its monthly meeting. Next term, the white and Indian schools at Port Edward, will be consolidated, with two teachers in charge of the classes.

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Mark Gormely, district forester, left by car today for the interior and will make a trip into the Tweedsmuir Park country, south of Burns Lake, on official business. He expects to be away for two weeks or more.

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