



PRINCE GEORGE today shows a well-planned city of more than 10,000. Bounded by the Nechako (left) and Fraser Rivers, Prince George is near the geographical centre of British Columbia and the centre of transportation between the northern and southern sections of the province. Claiming to be the "Hub City" of B.C., Prince George is at the crossroads of the Cariboo, Skeena and Hart highways, a major

divisional point for the Canadian National Railroad and northern terminal of the Pacific Great Eastern Railroad. Cross near the top right-hand corner denotes large airbase. To the left, across the railway tracks, is the industrial centre where many large sawmills produce millions of feet of finished lumber annually.—(Photo by Wally West)

## Early Days of Prince George City Linked With First B.C. Explorers

Early history of Prince George is linked with the names of Canada's greatest explorers and first white men to set foot in northern British Columbia.

Alexander Mackenzie reached the present site of Prince George in 1792 in the first overland trip across the country. In his wake came Simon Fraser, scout for the Northwest Trading Co. and founded Fort George in 1807, using it as a base of operations in exploring the Fraser River the following year.

Before Mackenzie came, the Indian village of Lheilti occupied the flats at the junction of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers.

It was this Indian reserve that staged a major upset in location of the early boundaries of the city, born of the railroad.

### SPECULATORS

When news of the railroad first reached the province, around 1900, speculators from afar sent envoys rushing to central B.C. to stake land along the surveyed strip from Jasper to Prince Rupert in the places most likely to become townships.

Prince George was one of several places where investors were fooled by the canny Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. While acres of land were bought up and promoted as future townships, the GTP went quietly on building a railroad.

In succession, little settlements sprang up—Ft. George, Central Ft. George, South Ft. George and North Ft. George. All bordered the railway right-

of-way, and each expected to be named the terminal.

None of the reality promoters had given a thought to the Indian reservation in the middle, held by the federal government—none, that is, except the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company, subsidiary of the railroad.

In a "deal" with Ottawa, the railroad purchased the reservation in 1914 and announced its surprise. The City of Prince George was incorporated in 1915.

Heavy investors in property as far distant as New York were left "holding the bag." Some of the property is still in original hands or in their estates. But not all have been left in the lurch.

Since its incorporation, Prince

### CITIZEN PRINTS TWICE WEEKLY

The Prince George Citizen, published twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays), has a circulation of 4,703.

The "Hub City's" independent newspaper is edited by C. A. Warner whose family has been connected with weekly newspapers for several generations.

The Citizen boasts up-to-date equipment including a new newspaper press and provides a complete printing service. Format of The Citizen is seven columns, 21 inches deep.

### Prince George Gateway To Finest Hunting, Fishing

A wooden moose with real horns mounted as a signpost greets all drivers as they enter Prince George by any of the three highways that converge at city centre.

The moose is the "trade-mark" adopted by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in lauding the district for its hunting and fishing opportunities.

Although most big game has withdrawn from the immediate area surrounding Prince George since the advent of civilization, it is still common for farmers to see moose, deer and bear wander over their fields at any time of the year.

But most of the big game—moose, caribou, deer, grizzly and black bear, and mountain goat—are hunted in the backwoods.

Guides and outfitters are available, as well as tourist accommodation.

Headquarters for the largest game division in the province is located here, in the charge of

Inspector Walter Gill. Under his jurisdiction operate 15 game wards from Prince Rupert on the west coast, south to Rivers Inlet, east of the Cascade Range to the Alberta boundary, and north to the Yukon boundary.

Inspector Gill, an enthusiastic hunter and angler himself, welcomes inquiries from tourists.

"There has been a marked increase over the past few years of tourist sportsmen in our division. We are happy to have them. The whole north, from the coast to Alberta provides the best hunting and fishing to be found anywhere."

"Many areas have never been hunted and hundreds of streams and lakes have never been fished. Northern B.C. is among the last good hunting frontiers on the continent," says Inspector Gill.

Meanwhile, provincial game laws and expert wardens to enforce them are playing a major part in game conservation. Active Rod and Gun Associations work with the game department to keep the country from being ravaged by indiscriminate killing of game.

As well as abounding in big game, the Prince George area also produces grouse in large numbers, and prairie chickens are increasing. Ducks of all western species are found in lakes and rivers. Canada geese are found on the Stuart and Middle rivers, and Ootsa Lake to the west.

### GOOD FISHING

Anglers, too, find Prince George a jumping-off place for fine trout fishing in such lakes as Six Mile, Summit, Bednesti, Clucuz, Stuart, Trembleur and Takla, Babine and Ootsa; and in such rivers as the Nechako, Crooked, and Fraser.

The Nechako and Fraser rivers converge at Prince George. Other angling waters named are all within 110 mile radius, where lake trout (char) up to 25 pounds and rainbow trout up to five pounds are plentiful.

The active Prince George Board of Trade and Junior Chamber of Commerce have called their city "the Cariboo Gateway to a New Playground."

Their publicity folder reads in part:

"This is the land of pine-scented air, where mile after mile of coniferous trees merge into the still blue haze of the early morning horizon. No where can the sense of nature's vastness and boundfulness be better appreciated."

"Here man assumes his rightful place as a very small cog in nature's scheme. Here the bustle and noise of the big city are as remote and out of place as horse and cart on New York's Fifth Avenue."

## Recreation Program Under Way

A long-range, three-point program to fulfill the cultural and recreational need of Prince George is being promoted by Mayor Gordon Bryant.

The "several-hundred thousand" program includes:

1. Completion of a Civic Centre building.
2. Construction of a swimming pool and development of parks and playgrounds.
3. Reconstruction of the civic arena and installation of artificial ice.

Completion of the Civic Centre is expected shortly, providing a gymnasium and a host of other facilities for young and adults.

Next on the mayor's program is construction of a public swimming pool, coupled with park development.

Financing of the projects is proposed through city guaranteed bond issues.

"Nothing of importance is going to be accomplished by public subscription," said Mayor Bryant, referring to an attempt to raise money for the centre which bogged down at an early stage.

A special feature of the proposed artificial ice arena is a new system of imbedding freezing pipes in a concrete floor.

"Advantages of this are obvious. With a concrete floor we could have a structure seating several thousand in which could be staged all types of indoor rallies, shows and games."

Present ice arena depends on natural ice, but warm weather often hampers the hockey-conscious central interior for most of the play-off games are staged in Prince George.

Hockey is the major winter sport. An amateur senior league draws on teams over an area in which the two outside participating communities are 250 miles apart.

Yet, most of the league games are attended by capacity crowds. Playoffs draw spectators from half of northern B.C.

### P.G. Jaycees Supply Skins

Supplying bear skins for the big, furry hats traditionally worn by Buckingham Palace guards has brought world-wide publicity to Prince George Junior Chamber of Commerce.

To date, more than 500 black bear skins have been collected by the Jaycees and sent to London, England, to play a part in royal pageantry.

While many of the skins have come from points outside Prince George, local Jaycee members themselves have contributed a good number. There is no closed season on the bears in British Columbia and Prince George always has been well populated.

"Bearskin," by the way, is the name of the group's official magazine.

### Northern Airport Serves Wide Area

Built during the Second World War as a major base in the Northwest Staging Route, Prince George's airport has three asphalt runways measuring 5,624 by 150 feet, 5,000 by 150 feet, and 5,770 by 150 feet.

Operated day and night by the department of transport, it has full hangar facilities. Scheduled air-line service is provided by Canadian Pacific Airlines with twice daily flights to Vancouver and interior points, and daily flights to Edmonton and Whitehorse via Peace River points of Fort St. John and Dawson Creek.

A daily flight between Terrace and Prince George is to be reopened this summer.

### Greater B.C. North of P.G.

More than half of British Columbia lies north of Prince George, present limit of northern railroad development, and contains less than 2 per cent of B.C.'s population.

British Columbia's established natural gas reserve in the Peace River area is 3.7 trillion cubic feet. B.C. gas contains a high proportion of propane and butane, some sulphur, and important strategic material recently in short supply, and some oil.

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