

# PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN

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FIVE CENTS

## German Revolutionists Desire War With France

**PLOT IS INDICATED TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT AND FORM ALLIANCE WITH SOVIET RUSSIA TO MAKE WAR UPON FRANCE—REPUBLICANS ORGANIZE FOR DEFENCE.**

PARIS, April 15.—The German Government has decided to place guards around Government and other public buildings and has sent for fifteen large tanks and twenty armoured cars because of rumors of a new attempt to overthrow the Government for the purpose of forming an alliance with Soviet Russia to declare war on France, according to advices from Berlin today.

Social Democrats have issued an appeal, advices add, calling upon their adherents to register for the defence of the republic against their internal enemies with arms in hand.

### PROPOSAL TO START AN AUTOMOBILE CLUB

**Local Motorists Propose Starting an Auto Club in City—Many Cars Owned Here Now.**

Following an interesting letter written to this paper about two weeks ago by Mr. Alleyne Wright, steps are now being taken to form an Automobile Club in the city. The recent large additions to the numbers of cars in use here have given an impetus to this proposal, and it is understood that motorists will shortly come together for the purpose of inaugurating a club in Prince George.

The functions of automobile clubs are many and varied, and range from influencing necessary legislation to protect the motorist and the public to club insurance, road signs, arranging "safety first" principles, keeping streets clear of broken glass, etc., likely to damage tires, keeping school children off the streets, making small road repairs, etc., for the general benefit of motorists in their locality.

### The Highway Act.

In view of the heavy automobile traffic over the city's roads it would be well to point out the regulations which are in force under the British Columbia "Highway Act" in respect to loads and tires, which must be considered if good roads are to be the slogan.

Under this Act wagons and four-wheeled vehicles shall not, east of the Cascade Mountains, carry a load in excess of the following: On tires over 3 inches in width, 2000 lbs.; tires 3 inches in width and under 4 inches, 3000 lbs.; tires 4 inches and under 5 inches, 6000 lbs.; and tires 5 inches in width and over 5 inches, 8000 lbs. and over.

### The Vancouver Club.

The Vancouver Automobile Club has done much valuable work for motorists on the coast. It aims amongst other things at the following objects: More good roads, more properly-marked highways, more arrests and convictions of motor thieves, fewer joy-riders (a polite name for motor thieves), more just and fair legislation for the motorist, fewer accidents on our roads and streets, better speed regulations, less discriminatory taxes and fees, more and better touring information, better and more efficient parking regulations.

### PRETTY GOOD DOPE— THAT CHINESE MEDICINE

**"Medicine" Taken From Chinamen by Police Found by Analysis to Contain 80 p.c. Alcohol.**

A sequel to the defence offered in the police court here some time ago occurred in the magistrate's court recently when Chee Song, who protested that alleged intoxicating liquor taken from him by the police was "Chinese medicine," was again haled before Magistrate Daniell. A return from the provincial analyst showed that this liquor contained 78 per cent of alcohol above the 2 1/2 per cent allowed.

Other cases in the police court recently include a few drunks and disorderlies and some small boys with catapults who broke a store window and were made to pay for it. Their lethal weapons now repose in the police museum.

### A MEAL WITH MUSIC.

The special Sunday night dinner at the Alexandra Hotel is becoming quite a feature of the big hotel's entertainment fixtures. Mr. Belgano supplies the music, which is sufficient guarantee of the excellence of this service.

The G.W.V.A. at Smithers are holding a dance on the 26th inst. In addition to the Smithers orchestra, a trap drummer is being sent for who will come from Rupert.

### INDICATES PROSPERITY OF CENTRAL B. C.

**G.T.P. Colonization Agent Is Optimistic Regarding This Region. Settlement Areas.**

"In agriculture, mining and lumbering," said Mr. R. C. W. Lett, industrial and colonization agent of the G.T.P. Railway, "no part of Canada is enjoying more prosperity than Central British Columbia. The government of that province is now about to throw open five new land settlement areas adjacent to the Grand Trunk Pacific line. Each of these areas will be of approximately fifty thousand acres and are situated in the Bulkley and Nechaco Valleys. It is conservatively estimated that 20,000 settlers will go into this territory during 1920. The preponderance of these settlers will come from the United States, as the American farmers are appreciating more every year the opportunities offered in the opening up of these areas where land is available at a low valuation. The British Columbia government is assisting these settlers by taking in stock. No less than thirty-eight hundred head were taken in and sold to settlers last year."

As to climatic conditions, Mr. Lett said: "It is excellent; they have winter weather, of course, but no long periods of extreme cold. As the coast is approached, at Terrace district, for instance, destined to be an immense fruit and vegetable country, the climate is ideal. I can justify my statement by telling you that out of twenty-nine days of February, nineteen days of bright sunshine were experienced. I consider this a record hard to equal in America. From reports received, zero weather had not been experienced this winter."

"There are reasons for Terrace having this delightful climate," said Mr. Lett. "It is situated only 95 miles from the Pacific coast, on the Skeena River, and of course the Japan current being at its best just off this portion of the coast, the temperatures are sure to be moderate. The Kitsungalum Valley, to the north, and the Lakelse Valley to the south, are only separated from salt water by low divides, and thus, fresh air currents are always moving, and do not allow for cold temperature."

"As a result of this combination, Terrace is rapidly becoming famous, not only for its climate, but for the excellence of its farm products. Strawberries and other fruits reach perfection, and when I say that potatoes yield over 600 bushels per acre, I am not exaggerating. One farmer in that district who has had considerable success in the growing of tomatoes is completing arrangements for the planting of several acres this year."

### WONDERFUL FISH CATCH FOR 1919 AT RUPERT

**Pacific Terminus of G.T.P. Is Becoming Centre of Great Fishing Industry.**

During 1919 the total catch of all fish landed at Prince Rupert amounted to 68,778,900 pounds. Of this amount 46,888,400 pounds were handled in Canadian bottoms; 35,380,000 pounds represented the salmon catch, which was valued at approximately \$4,607,903. The halibut catch in 1919 at Prince Rupert amounted to 16,476,270 pounds.

## 138 Car-Loads of P. G. E. Steel Consigned Here Cleared Customs

**FIFTY CARS ARRIVED HERE THIS WEEK AND ARE BEING UNLOADED IN MATERIAL YARDS—GRADING WILL COMMENCE, AS SOON AS FROST LEAVES THE GROUND—RAILWAY SAW-MILLS ARE ACTIVE.**

For track-laying on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway south of this point, 138 carloads of steel were recently cleared at the boundary consigned to Prince George. Fifty cars of this steel arrived here this week and are now being unloaded in the company's material yards across the Fraser River. Other shipments of construction material that have arrived are 500 tons of railway spikes, 300 tons of tie plates and 700 bridge stringers. These latter have to be shipped in from the coast, owing to the size of the timber which they must be cut from. They measure 8x16 inches and are 30 feet long.

At the present time there are about 150 men working out of this point, but this number will be greatly augmented as soon as the frost leaves the ground, enabling the grade work to be commenced along the face of the high cut-banks across the Fraser. Along these banks the grade will have to be cut in considerably further from the river. Hundreds of thousands of yards of material will

### BURGLAR BEATS THE PUNCH-BOARD GAME

**Several Stores Broken Into Recently. Punch-Board Prizes the Favorite Swag.**

On Monday of last week a bold, bad burglar broke into P. Pavich's confectionery store on Third avenue and got away with the golden prizes intended for the lucky customers who, working on the principle that "Columbus took a chance," poke holes in a punch-board in the hope of gain.

On Friday night of last week, deducing the fact from the burglar's happy choice of gold punch-boards, the same man, apparently, broke into Munro's store and separated the till from \$18.25. From the scene of this coup he visited Sam Long's establishment and again won all the golden punch-board prizes, and later on he evidently entered the Taylor pool-room by a back window, but no losses are reported at this place.

The police are now looking for a man smothered with many small gold coin stickpins, who will probably be wearing a choice collection of alleged gold pieces done in the form of watch fobs. Not alone is he being looked for, but at night he is being listened for, for the jangling of the watch fobs will be heard afar off.

On Tuesday a man named John Ackman was found wearing a pair of rubber boots that had been stolen from the home of Mr. Van Somers, vanishing with some tar-paper and a razor strap. The latter articles were found hidden in his bed. The man proved to be a section hand, and he was arrested at the station when about to take a train. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment at South Fort George.

### VIOLATING FOOD ACT.

CHICAGO, April 15.—Charged with violating the Lever Food Act, twenty-four leaders in the insurgent strike of railroad switchmen were under arrest in Chicago tonight. In all thirty warrants were issued and railroad and brotherhood officials declared the last bulwark of the local strike had been broken. Government agents said two hundred other warrants would be issued later.

Don't forget the tea dance tomorrow afternoon in the Ritts-Kifer hall in aid of a worthy charity. This tea dance is given under the auspices of the L.O.D.E.

### BANK OF COMMERCE WILL OPEN BRANCH

Telegraphic advices received here this week from Mr. M. D. Hamilton, inspector of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who visited Prince George recently, say that the bank will open a branch here immediately. Premises were secured for this latest addition to Prince George's banking facilities by arrangement with Mr. F. J. Shearer, who secured for the bank the lower floor of the building recently moved next to McKay's store on George street, which is now being remodelled.

## Investigation Is Saddling Blame in War Saddle Deal

**GOVERNMENT BOUGHT WAR SADDLES AT \$75 EACH AND RESOLD THIS YEAR AT \$5—LOSS ON THE DEAL FIGURES OUT AT SOMETHING OVER \$32,000—INVESTIGATION IS PROCEEDING.**

CALGARY, April 15.—Details of a deal in cavalry saddles, in which the Militia Department purchased saddles here during the war at about \$70 each and kept them in store, and then resold to the Great West Saddlery Company this year at \$5 each outfit, were revealed by investigation yesterday. These saddles, of which there are seven hundred, had been wholesaled out to second-hand stores at an average of \$14 an outfit, and are being retailed at prices which make the outfits cost \$10 complete.

An official at military headquarters today admitted that saddles had been sold at \$5 each by the government. The total loss suffered by the government in the deal, after deducting \$35,000 they got on the resale of the saddles, figures out at something over \$32,000.

### WATSON AND FISHER CASES FOR MONDAY

**Further Charges Against Police Commissioner Watson—Cases Remanded for Monday.**

In both the Staddon case and the Fisher case remands were granted by Magistrate Daniell until Monday next when both the accused will appear for preliminary hearing. On the application of Mr. W. P. Oglvie, counsel for Police Commissioner Watson, further time was asked for to prepare defence, and in Fisher's case a remand was granted to allow the accused more time to go into the city books for the purpose of investigating entries which the defence claims may account for the alleged deficiency, owing to the inexperience and inefficiency of the accused.

In addition to the first charge laid against Police Commissioner Watson, of attempting to bribe a police officer, an additional charge was laid this week by Chief of Police Stewart of actual bribery, which will be added to the charge already standing against him.

### CANADIAN NAVY OF ONE LIGHT CRUISER

**Government Defers Action in Naval Policy—Accepting Light Cruiser.**

OTTAWA, April 15.—In the Senate Sir James Lougheed made a statement in behalf of the government on the naval policy. The government had decided to defer in the meantime action in regard to the adoption of a naval policy for Canada, he said. The general question of the naval defence of the Empire, he said, would come up at the approaching Imperial conference, and meantime the government had decided to carry on the Canadian naval service on pre-war lines, accepting the offer of the British government of one light cruiser and two torpedo boat destroyers to take the place of the present obsolete and useless training ships the Niobe and Rainbow.

### ELK FOR JASPER PARK.

A shipment of ninety-two young elk from the Yellowstone National Park, U.S.A., has been received at Jasper Park, Alberta, and are being placed in the Valley of the Athabaska, which is a splendid range and natural habitat for wapiti. This shipment represents part of a herd being purchased by the Dominion Parks department for distribution to the National Parks of Canada.

### SAD DEATH OF MISS ALICE SAVAGE

**Succumbs to Blood Poisoning Before Her Father Can Reach Vancouver.**

Word was received in town on Tuesday of the death of Miss Alice Savage, of Vancouver, second daughter of Mr. John Savage, who has been doing business here since September. Mr. Savage was notified last week of the sudden serious illness of his daughter and left for home on the first available train, which was Thursday morning, but owing to mud slides and other mishaps coincident with travel at this time of year, he did not reach Vancouver until late Saturday night, and found that his beloved girl had already passed away. Miss Savage was sixteen years old, a bright student preparing for matriculation this coming June. She had always enjoyed good health, but a few days before her death a slight abrasion of the skin on her face in some way became infected, and in spite of all the doctors could do blood poisoning developed until death relieved her. She was laid to rest in Vancouver on Monday morning. Much sympathy is being expressed throughout the community for Mr. and Mrs. Savage and their three surviving daughters, who will all feel this loss keenly.

### AL. JOHNSON SELLS CASTLE FOR \$100,000

**Pioneer Hotelman of South Fort George Obtains Big Figure for His Vancouver House.**

A recent issue of the Vancouver Province reports the sale of the Al. Johnson interest in the Castle Hotel, to a Seattle hotelman, for a sum of \$100,000. Mr. Johnson did not own the Castle Hotel, but had a long-term lease of it, and his sale is for the furnishings and lease only. The purchaser is C. Kahn, who has a string of hotels in the Western States.

Mr. Albert Johnson was the first hotelman in the Fort George country. He is a pioneer hotelman of Cariboo, and years ago he ran the old Occidental Hotel at Quesnet in partnership with Mr. Frank Hofereamp. Later he ran a hotel at Ashcroft.

The first hotel erected in South Fort George by Mr. Johnson was burned to the ground on the dawn of Dominion Day, 1911, just before it was actually completed. Mr. Johnson immediately proceeded with the erection of the Northern Hotel, which now stands empty at South Fort George. It is understood that he will tear this hotel down shortly and utilize the material in building cottages in Prince George.

In the old Northern Hotel Mr. Johnson amassed a fortune during the days of railway construction. His bar-room at that time was one of the sights of the early days. It was of great length and behind it there ranged—at one time, day and night—a large force of bartenders who supplied the crowds of railroad workers with liquid refreshment. While still running the Northern Hotel Mr. Johnson acquired the Castle property in Vancouver. Its location is one of the best in the city, as it faces the Vancouver Hotel on Granville street.

What Mr. Johnson's present plans are is not at present indicated, but his many friends here hope that he will again look northwards for new enterprises.

### G. W. V. A. NOTES.

The regular meeting of the G. W. V. A. will be held in the club rooms on Monday night starting at 7:30 p. m. sharp. Every member is requested to turn out, as there is considerable business to be placed before the meeting.

It is expected that a report will be received and read in regard to the bonus question. Though some of our old members seem to think that we shouldn't get it, still a fight is being made for greater pensions and some re-establishment measures that are badly needed in a great many cases.

The club rooms are open again and running in full blast. Every night finds a bunch of the boys around. Have you been making it your rendezvous?

### NO ADVANCE IN THE CITY'S TAX RATES

**Council Passes Tax Rate of 25 Mills. Sum Inadequate, but Special Revenue Anticipated.**

The city council this week passed the tax rate for the year at the figure of last year, namely, 25 mills. This rate is applied as follows: Interest and sinking fund, 9 mills; schools, 4 1/2 mills, and general, 11 1/2 mills. The rate is not adequate to meet the necessary expenditures, but in view of the fact that there has been no change in the assessment, the mayor and council consider that it would be inequitable and unfair to raise the rate. Special revenue will be forthcoming from various sources.