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Fifty-First Year; No. 9.— PRINCETON, B.C., THURSDAY, 1st MARCH, 1951 5c per Copy; $2.00 per Year

SHALL WE WED BLIND?

(Incorporation)

THERE is high cry over H. I. It is costing more than we bargained on. What we embraced so hastily, in enthusiasm more than study, we begin—too late—to doubt and re-examine in experience, legally bound to an expensive—and we doubt extravagant arbitrary authority. But that was the contract we gave

We are about—as rashly and as blindly— to consider a similar contract—incorporation.

Nor forget that Hospital Insurance was plunged into hastily over ample warning that preparation and understanding were inadequate.

In union is strength, and wise contracts work—among good and wise people—satisfied, to mutual satisfaction and in mutual gain. Incorporation and insurance and marriage could and should. Wisdom contracts—but not in flaws—where the human element is as vital as the principle. All things add up, and to be sure of the right answer, even in the right process, you must check, be sure in advance, of every factor that goes in?

Experts Can Blunder

Did we in hospital insurance; are we in incorporation? Potential figures, hypothetical blueprints, mean nothing are rather dangerous misleaders. The wise contract knows what it works to, pretty well what it has to work with, and how it will work with it. Did the hospital insurance plan. Did you? Do the incorporationists? Do you?

Now assuming in hospital insurance we were all sincere for a fair contract—which analysis does not admit and wisdom would never simply assume — it still adds up to what we did not bargain for. We assumed too much—both in mutual sincerity and in leaving the know-how of the contract to the other party—with full authority.

Are not the incorporationists urging us to do just that?

Any contract adds up to just what we make it—by effort or indifference, intelligence or ignorance. However we are wise it weds us to unwisdom with equal authority. We have many men who have demonstrated by success in their own affairs that they could govern us well. They loolm small in politics; because politics has no place for what adds up in sheer good sense. It has other motives.

And Amateurs Too

In complexity and remoteness of the mass we forget the careful mathematics of individual survival. We create an authority of bad arithmetic—and it adds up in assumption of mass miracle and magic in leadership and mass (but sheer hokuspocus) to extravagance and dishonesty and corruption and sheer stupidity, affecting, equally helplessly the best and the worst of us—the international tension, the rotten dollar, the ration and controls, taxes and insurance premiums, the Washington corruption hearings, the $65,000,000 wheat steal—debt, a curb on the life of—you. And the contractor, the final authority, contributing or permitting, with ignorance equally as bad as connivance—is YOU.

The pattern is here as elsewhere. Is Memorial Park encouraging? An expensive firehall preferred to urgently needed equipment? An expensive school that cost more than we voted. Rising hospital rates. Not necessarily condemned, but a grim reminder that we pay for what we get, often more than we care to buy. in the universal tendency of even canny men to be liberal with public funds.

No Confidence

It is precisely because by example and experience we have not found confidence in local leadership—nor in ourselves to assess and require — that we have not incorporated long ago.

Mind, we have been just as blind in playing the ostrich delegating our affairs to distance to men perhaps no more able or sincere, and obviously not too much concerned about us —as experience equally testifies.

But that is no argument. For if we did not get very much, there was a limit to what we could lose.

What does count is that we want the best—a contract that will work. that we know will work. Where is the evidence of it; or are we just "trying again' with blind hope for some new magic?

We have ourselves to blame. We have never learned to assess and analyse. We keep looking for a good bargain—and are outsmarted. In the school issue factual approach was deliberately suppressed. And some who protested most vigorously insist

(Page Thirteen)

WHEN IN DOUBT . . .

YOU are asked to incorporate Princeton on April 28th. Wisdom compels—regretfully—no!

Many years your community paper has humbly been dedicated to your service in the sure creed of truth—and consequences, so analysing issues in your true interests. It has offended whom truth offends, been ignored, opposed, but never refuted.

It has probed incorporation, approved in principle, urged its practice. In the same spirit it rejects this approach as either insincere or unintelligent—in any event inadequate—and dangerous.

When you buy you should know what you buy. Do you? The sponsors had the obligation to prove and persuade. Have they? What instruction has there been? What are the plans? What opportunity for discussion? Is this sound, or a blind leap?

No Child's Play

The stake is your town, your property, your welfare, for better—or for worse. After all, Princeton has got along since 1860; bigger and some better; of course, well managed, it could be much better. And must be. But can't we know? Need we risk? Does this approach inspire confidence in intelligent management? Does our past record?

Management is golden. But we have reason to feel that least government is best government.

Hospital insurance—taxes—the dollar—the C.B.C.—the P.G.E. and the C.N.R.—the British African peanut scheme, for instance; and Tammany Hall, Teapot Dome and the Kefauver commission.

Government gravitates from the simple contract of sharing into a mandate to rule — more orders in council, with ever more need to be sure of our leaders—and their plans.

Compare the old fashioned school meeting and the new order under the Cameron heirarchy. What chance did you have to vote for a Conservative policy in B.C.? Did you vote for the present—or any—Hospital Insurance set-up? How much choice do you really have in the man you elect; and how much of his platform is fulfilled? And how many of you attended the last meeting of your civic fire district? What does the notice of poll, outlining the limits of incorporated Princeton, convey to you? Are you alert and sure when you vote, as when you buy? Is incorporation sale in your interest, your vote? (The apathy of this campaign does not suggest it. A high school teacher to-day did not even know about it. Is this sound insurance for better?

Are YOU Prepared?

Public affairs demands some competence, with an alert and enlightened electorate the gem. Admittedly the outside expert is far from the ideal. But there are snares of amateurism too, however sincere. How well are we equipped? Remember Merritt!

How many of you know the Rules of Order and Procedure? Seldom has a meeting here been really valid. And certainly both the Board of Trade and Ratepayers' Association could be invalidated. This is not technical quibble. but the essential of order. And it is the contract of incorporation. Make a slip in the procedure of the poll, just for instance, and see.

We had a controversy over the school site. Was it intelligently decided. We scorned the offer—free—of expert advice. Are we educationalists and town planners? We preferred opinion and prejudice. Let's all vote for the sun to shine at night. Salesman Sam would be all for it.

We voted a set sum for a school—and for certain plans. More was spent and the plans were changed. Maybe wise, but bad procedure—with dangerous possibilities.

The Firemen asked for a $1200 firehall. It cost $8000. A good investment, but bad priority, lacking vital equipment; dangerously exhausting five years' borrowing power against contingency.

They drew all the money at once, left it idle for some months, paying interest. Bad procedure and bad business.

Memorial Park drew our leading lights. A lucrous bit of business

Our Ratepayers spent some $800 on the water deal—on lawyers and accountants. (We could have bought the waterworks once for $1000 like the company did.)

And only examples.

Let's Know First

Honest and well intended, with effort the keynote of community weal. But need analysis and intelligent approach be all in post mortem? Yet how truth — equally community minded—offends our community leaders! Is this true public spiritedness—or vanity! For our community belongs as much—and means as much to those who serve in truth—and consequences. Is that less worthy and sincere? Is it ignorant, prejudiced, uncivic, unprogressive. Which is?

We want incorporation—to work. For 25 years a few strange spirits have been trying to put it over blindly. They do it the worst possible service; they start suspect, whatever their motives or mania, who shy at intelligent examination. For some have been no giants in selflessness or charitableness. What is their enthusiasm, so greater than truth?

So often they have been rejected—and wisely, in the danger of leaping blindly. Is it any different this

A Buycycle Built For You?

My Pal MARTIN PEPPPPPER Peppers. Princeton will vote Saturday on whether he intends to blast us or cultivate us. Under incorporation Martin (he's the third man in the picture) will be collector of infernal retinues.

time?

Study their Report. A table of Sale Tax to a few towns—from $20,000 to $4,800. What would we have got? It is based on population. It could be computed. The government could tell us exactly what we would have got. These figures anyone could get from a government report—or a newspaper—in five minutes.

Round figures—$5,000, $10,000. Their authority? This is no convincing research. Rent $500. Fuel $60, and so forth. Guesses? Stamps $5.00—yet office supplies only $100. Hospitalizat on and relief $150. How about depression times? Fire chief $1,500. Why pay a chief and secretary while firemen work and risk free—and help build the firehall? Cemetry (so spelt) $250. How arrived at?

Against themselves, they debit $1,000 for fire protection, do not point out that it has been a special tax—more than $5,000 while the hall was being paid.

Roads and sidewalks could be improved. Research! Snow and refuse could be cleared—if we paid for it. So they could now. Better street lights—estimate $1,800; present cost, nil. Garbage and dump ground could be controlled. How? There are provincial laws now. Fire risks. We have the full authority of a fire district now. Zoning—in a 50 year old town, basin fully saturated; the school a fait accompli; where we would not even see the Graham Report. Village incorporation is simpler than full incorporation. More research. Princeton is losing between $35,000 and $45,000 a year. Now! Now!. Your revenue estimate (very!) is $38,000; and surely the government spends something—they threaten to force us to incorporate. We could control utilities—which are under control of a provincial authority. We could make the water company stop leaks and repair roads—Are we to incorporate to spite Mr. Murray. It has already wasted $800. Why didn't the government do it. Will Princeton law be stronger than provincial?

The dump ground was a straight gift from the Forestry folk; we had not enough civic pride to keep it decent—and the Forestry folk put out the fires.

Who collects the taxes? Does it not cost something? It does the Fire District.

Is This Researeh?

No parks? The Memorial folk were banking on incorporation to take over this esrtwhile white elephant—and we do need playgrounds; won't the Cenotaph be Princeton's?—it was the first community possession. No publicity? No travelling expenses, no donations? This forecast forgets many things, big and small. It may be a good guess, it has little authority.

Indeed, who can predict the future? Right now—out of $18,000 taxes—the government has been handed a bill for 17,000 flood damage to property. When it floods again—can they send the bill (minus taxes) to Victoria? And it is not our river to change.

Are we never to acquire anything—machinery property, equipment? This shows no capital expenditure. It is simply a guess at an operating estimate. This attitude is not security.

Is this intelligent research, bespeaking intelligent management? A very good case could be made for incorporation; but these are the people who want to manage us. It is their job to make it.

They call these facts.

—Remember. we analysed Mr. Prideaux's reports too.

On this evidence the reluctant conclusion is that we are unprepared for the leap — and it would be dangerous to make it—to expect good management on such lines. We believe in automobiles. But we believe in drivers' tests before we hand them out; this has the power of a gun.

You have a right to know what you vote for— a responsiblity. Reckless votes commit intelligent citizens too. It is not right, in plain logic, to commit your town on this approach. A shame, because we need incorporation—to work. But it is too late now; they have failed us. We can always buy when we know what we buy. We must know on April 28th—or risk the consequences—too big a risk.

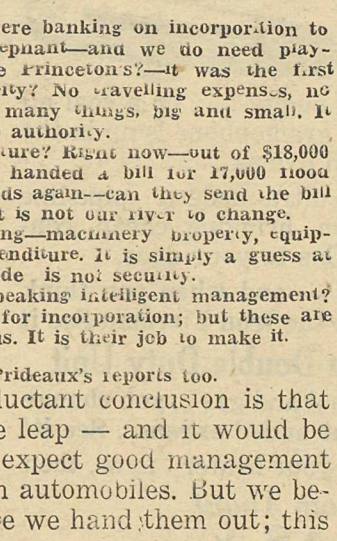
FIRE HALL PAID UP

PRINCETON now owns its fire hall. The loan by which the building was finnaced was paid off this year—the last of the annual installments.

That will leave more money available for equipment — and should also reduce the tax rate.

Fire protection is administered by an incoporated fire district, with three commissioners—just like incorporation.

Only Her Name Is Martin, Not Merlin



Exclusive photo of our PEPPPFERY angel waving his magic pitchfork and spraying poor pitiful unpolitical Princeton with incorporaton pepppppppper. Courtesy Hades Asbestos Mat Process inCorporation.

Not published by Liquor Control Board or of Allison Flats.

MORE THAN A BALLOT

PRINCETON has a bad name. Visitors come and do things they wouldn't dare to at home, and exploit our liberal liberty—and go back and say , or print, nasty things about us.

Now we should cherish that frontier freedom; but not abuse it. The frontier code of our originals was of necessity free and generous; but equally necessarily it made short shrift of the bad hombre who abused it.

The man of the frontier was a natural gentelman. Nature—nor culture—produced no better.

Now they argue the authority of incorporation to keep the offenders in line.

We think that is starting at the wrong end—that the prerequisite of a good community is a good and community-minded people. Marrying a rotter is a doubtful way to mutual bliss.

Incorporation we think quite our secondary need to community spirit. We don't think division or persecuton will make it. We don't think incorporation will amount to much without it.

For Ourselves

This is the real answer to our critics. A free town for better could me a much better attraction than a free town for worse.

We like the tourists well enough; but frankly we are more concerned with making it a good town for our own folk. Even in language of the promoter, they spend more. What's more, they ARE our town. They are with us always; we want to be glad that they are.

And in plain truth we defend mightily this rich and lovely valley and its good folk; and criticize them as sincerely, in the same service, in the same scale of values that prefers it to Santiago or Singapore.

Accepting truth, we do not blame it when it does not compliment us. Busy about putting it right, we would rather keep the unpleasant among ourselves.

Make no mistake. We are good folk. Men who blast ice jams and pitch in at fires And we have one of the finest spots on earth. Cast about the world and be encouraged. And see how in some things we are unworthy of our heritage and ourselves — things that cost us much in happiness. Only feel the fault the more in the pride of eachtoher, nor be offended in the true service of friendship—that we may be better yet, and gain the more

We Can Do It

No one believes more solidly in Similkameen. The Highway had no stronger champion. And events have justified. Truth is inevitable.

But we argued equally that we were not ready for it — no one less than ourselves.

We observed too that when truth is unfavorable. publicity is a doubtful asset; it is always a dangerous force in the hands of the unskilled. But fools fancy themselves bigger than truth.

Nor as guileless. We forewarned that the fellow from the big outside world was no sucker—and no saint.

Our stock in trade here has traditionally been a carelessness of truth which we foolishly fancy to be liberalism and liberty, careless of invisible ledgers We have made it a bait, forgetting the nature of the beast it lures. And a lot of people come here to take advantage of it—and go back to tell the world what beasts we are. Well, we ask for it; it is our bait

Our Real Asset

We have a very much more valuable one—a hillsman's frontier paradise, with a romantic—not a rowdy—past, a progressive present, and a promising future.

And a traditional frontier hospitality, by which the natural gentleman of the trail is no less attractive than the gentleman of the tuxedo. And it fitted Those who wear it still are still a bigger attraction than we realize—and a better one than ginrowdy for which some would sell our birthright. These features, cherished in this paper, for example. have an amazing audience. Good stuff finds takers.

But our misguided friend wrote of earthier things, like the lady to whom the dust is more attractive than the jade.

Mind, dust is indefensible and uncomplimentary truth, and we must be busy about it. And much that is dingy about our town is indefensible, some of it inexcus-

(Page Fourte

Princeton Assessment Nears Three Millions

ASSESSMENT in Princeton is now $2,994,369, following a big boost by last summer's revaluation. Figures:

Land, $430,904 (up $208,194; improvements $1,292,324 (up $431,221); machinery and equipment (school tax only) $269,141.

— April 28th, 1951 —

"Are you in favour of the incorporation of the area known as Princeton as a village municipality?"

YES

NO

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Think Now About

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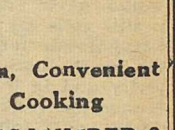

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WED BLIND?

From Page Three

on pushing incorporation the same fool way. Why? Is amateur politics any less dangerous than expert?

Time after time the vital issue has been pushed blindly. stubbornly, in the same old way, by the same few men. who, whatever their motives, seemed much more concerned with getting a mandate than selling a blueprint of success. And Princeton, wisely. would not wed an unknown. Which is no disproof of its possibilities.

What others do is well enough. It is what we plan to do that counts. Who knows? What opportunity has there been for understanding, discussion?

There is some smug satisfaction that some outstanding antagonists are no longer obstacles If they were prejudiced, does that speak well for our wisdom. that fell before prejudice? If they were wise, are we securer in their loss.

Princeton needs no urging nor no skullduggery to buy good value. It wants to know what it buys. It wants no hospital insurance fiascos, no receiverships no post mortems. These are the dividends of contract with experts. So far the fumblings of our own amateurs are not inspiring. The issue has not been efficiently or intelligently approached; there has been little public preparation, no public discussion. The date of the poll was fumbled, the fee was doubled. no happy augury.

Most of us believe, or could be reasoned to believe, in incorporation. But we want to know whom and what we wed and how we plan to get along in it. We are eager for the right proposition and we keep the chance of it unless in haste we throw ourselves blindly on the expert —or the amateur. Let's have an intelligent proposal—or wait till we get one.

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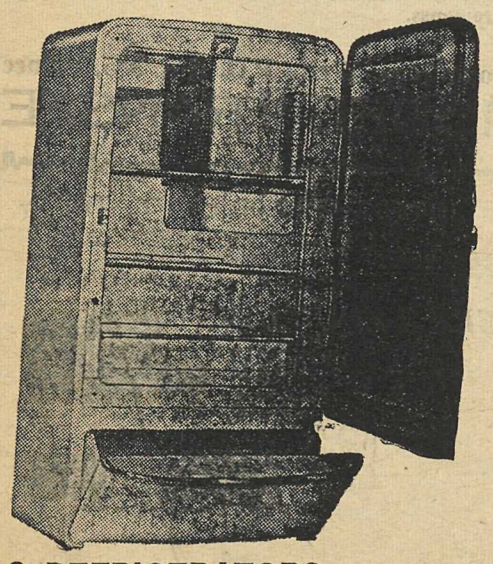

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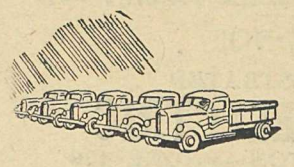

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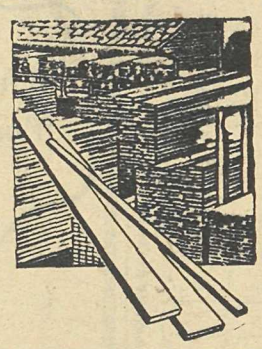

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YOUR VOTE IS NOT ENOUGH --

From Page Three

able. We could have the most efficient town in B.C That is open to any, and we lag far behind. And the bonniest—and that is no common opportunity, a privilege of our climate. our setting and other bounteous resources.

For much there is no excuse. For others there is. They see and foresee and are busy about it, but do not make the dust more important than the vase.

Much of it lies in town planning, which was hideously conceived and has been shamefully thwarted.

Some lies in that this is a vale of opportunity, where true men still pioneer, and achieve by work and put first things first Give them time and you won't have to apologize for the town they make.

And there are the less excusable factors. Much could be better. On both scores we cautioned that we weren't ready for an indiscriminate influx.

There is of course lack of local authority, which tends to the lowest common denominator.

There are those would wave the magic wand of incorporation, forgetting that the only true authority is individual eagerness for the best value. in right.

But there are communal functions. Somebody must clean streets and dispose of garbage and the like, but even there much can be taken care of by personal pride and a sense of share in personal responsibility. When its loudest advocates have the best flowers and the cleanest sidewalks incorporation will be much more convincing.

We got a free dump ground; it was soon dumped inaccessible; we dump on streets. in parks; we use streets for garages; we shovel our yard walks — but our part of the sidewalk? Is not incorporation a sub-conscious wish to let government do what government can never do — or let George do it. Good, we need little law. bad, we do not honor it.

When you stop to realize —our auto horn weddings, our dances. Our "public" fires. Yet firemen— and the Fire District—joyously trespass on taxpaying property. Our court house pumps into the street—and our incorporationists too.

Then there are those who blame the government. It is true that we have not got out what we put in. But the government, as they have told us, does not exist to administer Princeton. We are equally justified in rejecting the government's formula, and demanding what we pay for—they don't refuse the rates. But that is up to the member. and us, who elect him as we are, not what he thinks we should be—he accepts the votes.

But it is not so black as our mistaken friend suggests. We have made great gains in 20 years. We have doubled our population and our payroll and quadrupled our assessment (the thanks partly to inflation). In these aspects of progress are we sub-average? And after all we have got the road. And in the last few years, thereby, our pace has been dubiously hot We have acquired some of our finest buildings. to set a standard it will naturally take time for the old to overhaul. But we are on our way.

And we have acquired some people who are not our type.

And after all we have, by comparison made unwonted gains in public works. We were due them

Indeed, with all this, it is not so certain that we have got a better town—to visit—or what is more important after all, to live in. That could lie with our new friends.

It is so true that we should spruce up. We are a working town. and we can afford to dress up. But we need not be ashamed of our work clothes. After all there is something more important than dress, and while we must know how to entertain, it will not be too hard if we know how to live. And of course the vases should be dusted; we have arrived.

But not thrown out. They—and us—are the real attraction and it is even more important that we should be a bigger attraction than our streets, our homes our clothes. It will be doubtful progress if we simply substitute paint and paving for the traditional character and true hospitality that. sitting so aptly with our favored setting, is our finest asset, not only for visitors, but for true friends.

By all means let us look to the dust—but also that there is none on the good heart of Similkameen. True to ourselves we shall not lack visitors or friends.

Dust by all means, but dust is not everything. Our friend did not meet the right people — or wasn't one of them.

Don't put too much magic in your vote. Try DOING something

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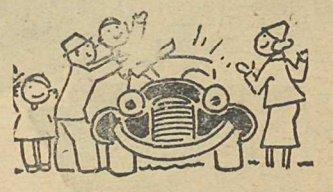

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