

Home That People Have to Live in Some of These Places

Can 'Little Tokyo' Solve City Housing Problem?—News Men Say Answer Is NO



By BILL FLETCHER
 Would the opening up of a town as a residential district provide a possible solution to the alarming housing situation in Vancouver?
 Could the dingy, mysterious quarter of town, often called Little Tokyo, which runs east from Main Street and north from Hastings, "provide comfortable living accommodations for the families of several

vicemen and homeless workers?
 With a view to securing an answer to this question, raised publicly several times in Vancouver, a News-Herald reporter and photographer spent an afternoon roaming the buildings and alleys of the section vacated only a few months ago by thousands of Japanese.
 There was but one conclusion to be drawn. Not even a dog should be asked to curl up in

some of the broken-down frame dwellings that huddle together in the alleys behind Powell and adjoining streets.
 The fact that people live in some of the places, declared unfit for human habitation by the Vancouver medical health officer, is a regrettable shame.
 But, as one shipyard worker whose front door opens into a woodshed which, in turn, leads to an alley, said resignedly, "We've got to live some place, where else can you go?"

"We moved in here last October before the health inspector came around. He can't put us out now, but if we moved he certainly wouldn't let anyone else come in."
 How Japanese families existed in the filthy, cramped district without inviting an epidemic, is a mystery.
 The complete impracticality of adapting the Japanese houses and vacant stores to residential quarters for soldiers' families, or anyone else for that matter, was outlined by a resident of the district.
 "Nobody could live in those stores," he said. "None of them have any plumbing, and besides, you get fixtures today, even if you did want to fix them up."

"The only place people can live in these Little Tokyo alleys is in the back. This is where the Japs lived. They carried on their businesses in front and naturally didn't have any living conveniences there."
 But let's pay a social visit to one of these shipyard workers who is forced by circumstances to move his family in with rats.
 We push open a wooden gate that opens on to the main street. Inside the gate is a long alleyway between two buildings. It is only a foot or so wide and in some places you have to turn sideways to negotiate its length.
 Three-quarters of the way between the main street and the alley that parallels it in the middle of the block we stumble over a foot or so wide and in some places you have to turn sideways to negotiate its length.
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Women's Place Is On The Train And In CPR's Round House, Too

Winnipeg says that about 100 women have been taken on the staffs of the C.N.R. working in shops and roundhouses.
 They have been hired during the past four or five months, and there is every possibility that their ranks will be added to in the near future.
 "The women are doing exceptionally well," E. R. Battley of Montreal, recently appointed chief of motive power and car equipment for the system, said during his initial inspection trip.
 The women's place might be in the home, it has been definitely proven during the past months that women's place is on the train.
 Being women to replace men who have gone into active service, the C.P.R. has put women to work as car cleaners, vacuum cleaners, and the floors, clean windows, take up the car when necessary, and other work that well-known feminine touch.
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EXTERIOR VIEW OF JAPANESE SHIPYARD

The arrow in foreground points to foundation of the building. The empty space on the right was recently occupied by another building. It collapsed while being torn down. Front entrance to the place is up a narrow alleyway between the tall brick building and house on right. Corrugated iron beside the window covers the kitchen wall.
 "X" marks the kitchen window. An interior view of which is shown in lower picture.
 AT THE RIGHT IS THE KITCHEN of the shack pictured above. Here the ceiling is about seven feet. In the adjoining room it is hardly more than six feet. A reporter leans against the banister of a narrow stairway that leads to a rubber-hole perch on roof.



PARLEY ENDS WORK STOPPAGE IN SHIPYARD

A work stoppage of about an hour's duration took place in the shipyard of West Coast Shipbuilders Ltd. Tuesday afternoon, when about 50 pipe-fitters downed tools in protest against a change of foremen.
 A conference between Frank Carlisle, business agent of the Plumbers and Steamfitters' Union, and F. E. Harrison, western representative of the Department of Labour, resulted in the men going back to work.

Labor Council Urges Investigation Of Employee Status At 'West Coast'

The Shipyard of West Coast Shipbuilders came under the fire of delegates to Vancouver Labor Council Tuesday night, an "open shop" yard with an alleged "anti-union" bias.
 Angus Harley, of the Boiler-makers' Union, rose first to correct an impression he alleged had been created by press reports of record-breaking shipbuilding in a "West Coast shipyard."
 "People believed," said Mr. Harley, "that the West Coast Shipbuilders' yard was referred to, which, he stated, was not the case."
 All shipbuilding records in B.C. are held by a well-organized and well-located closed shop yard—South Burrard," he said.
 Following Harley, Art Staub of the Berry Growers' Protective Society, of Mission, received the support of the council for their request for a 3 cent per pound subsidy from the government on berries.
 "Our issue is not one revolving around Mr. Little," wrote Conroy. "He resigned of his own accord, but it is against the whole labor policy of the government."

WOMAN REPORTS THEFT OF \$218

Mrs. V. Pepper, 4203 Eighth Street, reported to police Tuesday the theft of \$218 from her purse, hanging in the clothes closet.
 The complainant told police she was in the basement doing the family washing for about two hours in the morning and upon going upstairs she found that the dining room and bedroom had been ransacked.

Aged City Man Still Missing

"If we could only find someone who has seen him since he left home on Monday, we'd have something to go on."
 That is the worried cry of Mrs. T. P. Gristwood, of 1867 West Fourth Avenue, whose father, John McNeil, has been missing since November 30.
 The missing persons bureau of the Vancouver police is combing the city looking for the 78-year-old man, but so far they have had no success.
 Mrs. Gristwood, whose husband is in the army, fears that her father may have become ill while he was down town and was unable to reach home. He had been ailing for some time.

To Bury Airman With Full Honors

The funeral of LAC Ernest Traver ("Bud") Aitkens, who was killed at Lethbridge on the eve of his graduation last Friday, will take place today at 2 p.m. with full R.C.A.F. honors from the Center and Hanna Funeral Chapel, Flight-Lieut. Rev. H. S. McDonald will officiate.
 Burial will take place in the Field of Honor plot, Mountain View Cemetery.
 The young airman, a wireless operator air gunner, is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Aitkens, 1875 Yew Street.
 In the crash which claimed LAC Aitkens' life, a sergeant pilot from Britton was critically injured and another Canadian engaged with minor injuries. The men were attached to No. 4 Bomber and Gunnery School, Lethbridge.

Seniority, National Selective Service, the Labor Department, and the Draft Board, he charged, were all ignored in the lay-offs.

"The yard may be overstaffed," he said, "but if so, why cut down in this inefficient fashion?"
 After considerable discussion, which touched also on conditions in the Selective Service offices, the resolution was passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the Department of Labour and the Selective Service Board.
 A report from Dr. Saunders, Thieves Monday night jimmied the front show case at the entrance of the Famous Cloak & Suit Company, 263 West Hastings Street, and escaped with a pair of silver fox furs valued at \$175.
 Officials of the store told police that the furs were stolen from the B. C. District Telegraph Company, when the burglar alarm commenced ringing.

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FEAR FOUL PLAY

There is also a fear that he may have met with foul play, for he was carrying his pension cheque with him when he went down town Monday morning. A relative who works in a downtown hotel states that Mr. McNeil cashed the cheque there during the day.
 "If anyone saw him after that it might be of some help if they told the police," his daughter states.
 The missing man is five feet nine inches tall, weighs 135 pounds, has blue eyes and grey hair, and the thumb and index finger of one of his hands are missing. He was wearing a dark overcoat and a dark grey hat when he left the house.

CBC LEASES PRINCE RUPERT RADIO STATION

OTTAWA, Dec. 9.—(CP)—The Board of Governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation announced Tuesday night the leasing of the radio station at Prince Rupert, B.C., to provide the "very fullest radio facilities possible, particularly for the benefit of the armed forces."
 The announcement said the board gave "prolonged consideration at a two-day meeting which ended Tuesday." The provision of special radio facilities for the armed forces.
 The board also approved in principle the setting up of a pension fund for members of the CBC staff on a contributory basis in which the corporation and the staff make equal contributions to provide retiring annuities at the age of 65.

SILVER FOX FURS STOLEN

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