

# Minister Opens New Gymnasium

Hon. George Weir Officiates at Opening Ceremonies



*Hon. George Weir, Provincial Minister of Education (left), photographed with John Waugh, supervising principal, Powell River and district schools, before the opening of the new gym.*

**O**N Wednesday, March 6th, the new High School Gymnasium was officially opened by the Hon. George Weir, Provincial Minister of Education. The minister made a special trip from Victoria to officiate at the ceremony.

The gym will be a valuable addition to the recreative and welfare life of the district. It is a spacious up-to-the-minute building and one of which Powell River may be proud. The building is 60 feet by 100 feet, with a playing area 60 feet by 83 feet, and a basketball area 44 feet by 80 feet. Accommodation for three badminton courts, a volley-ball and handball court is provided.

## Visitors Like It

Visiting athletic squads who were privileged to appear in the basketball finals this month declare the gym one of the finest they have played in. The lighting arrangements, which drew many enthusiastic comments, are in accordance with the most modern practice.

The building will be used as a com-

bined gymnasium and school auditorium, and a 11-foot by 40-foot stage is an important part of the installation. As an auditorium the building will accommodate approximately 600 people. When gym displays or basketball games are in progress, seating accommodation for two hundred and fifty spectators is available.

## Physical Education

The new gymnasium building brings Powell River and District's educational facilities to a plane comparable with that enjoyed by students in the metropolitan areas. Physical education, today as important a subject on the school curriculum as history, arithmetic or geography, has now every indoor and outdoor facility at its disposal—and at its front door.

## Teaching Standard High

The standard of public and high school education in Powell River has been admittedly on a plane equal to the best in the province. Teachers and supervisors have been possessed of first-class qualifications and essen-

tial academic standings. School equipment, educational and athletic, is superior to that of many schools in the province and equal to the best.



*Stanley B. Macfarlane, townsite superintendent, who supervised the construction of the High School gymnasium. "Mac" was construction engineer when No. 7 machine room was built. He has some sound ideas on the type of construction he would place outside of Hitler, Goebbels & Co., and will guarantee the work.*

The gymnasium brings the district into line with the larger centres of the province.

Dr. Weir, in his address to students at the official opening, emphasized these points and commended the Powell River Company for their in-

terest in and their material assistance to the course of education in this district.

Present with Dr. Weir on the platform were Mr. J. Waugh, Supervising Principal of the District schools; Mr. E. G. Daniels, Inspector of Schools; Mr. R. Bell-Irving, Vice-President of the Powell River Company, and Mr. D. A. Evans, Resident Manager; Mr. Myron McLeod, President of the Board of Trade; Mr. Joe Nixon, contractor, and Stanley B. Macfarlane, Townsite Superintendent, and supervisor of construction for the gymnasium.

## Abroad at Home

Carved on the tombstone of a citizen of Prague who died recently is the following epitaph:

"Here rests Josef Schmidt, who was born in Austria, lived in Czechoslovakia, and died in Germany, yet never left his native city, Prague."



*Typical daily scene on the floor of the new High School gymnasium as the physical education classes go through their daily routine.*