

MAXIMS  
OF A  
MERE MAN

Learning should continue as long  
as there is anything you do not  
know.

# THE GUARDIAN OF THE GULF

The People's Paper Read by Everybody

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

MAXIMS  
OF A  
MERE MAN

The world makes progress as  
much by Mars (War) as by Minerva  
(Wisdom).

The Guardian, Three Cents  
Morning Daily Founded 1887.

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## MAN FROM HEAD OF MONTAGUE REPORTED MISSING

### Heavy Snow Poses Problem In City

22-inch Fall Since Christmas Eve  
Halifax Reports New Record.

### Former Tignish Man Killed In Accident

James Maxwell Murphy, youngest son of the late Senator P. C. Murphy, Tignish, died on Christmas Eve at Mount Pleasant, Texas, from injuries received in an automobile accident. His mother, the late Mrs. Murphy, nee Minnie Burke, was the sister of the late Rev. A. E. Burke, one-time parish priest at Alberton, and later editor of the "Catholic Register", Toronto. The late Mr. Murphy was about 48 years of age.

The funeral services will be held at 10 o'clock this morning at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the late Mr. Murphy practiced his profession of law. Married, the names of his wife and children were unavailable last night.

He was one of four children by the late Senator's first marriage. The others are Alfred of Vancouver, B.C., who, as a Captain in World War I, won the Military Cross for gallantry in action; Claude; and Howland. All four served overseas in the First World War.

Two half-sisters, Eleanor of Boston, and Nellie, Vancouver, and a half-brother, Reginald, of Ottawa, also survive him. Their mother, the Senator's second wife died several years ago. Before her marriage, she was Agnes Wickham, a sister of the late Dr. William Wickham, who was a practicing physician in Tignish for many years.

The residence of the late Senator Murphy in Tignish was purchased shortly after the Senator's death by the present Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. J. A. Bernard.

### Churchill Suffering From Severe Cold

MARRAKECH, French Morocco, Dec. 28 — (AP)—Winston Churchill, suffering from a bad cold, was kept in bed by doctor's orders Saturday. Members of Churchill's party said the former British Prime Minister, 73, apparently caught cold on motor trip to the mountains, where he sat beside his automobile for several hours painting the landscape. His condition is not considered serious, they said.

### Coming Events

- "Dance Belfast Hall, Tuesday, Dec. 30th.
- "Grinding Grain daily. Bell Bros., St. Peters Road, Parkdale.
- "Dance in French River Hall, Monday, December 29th.
- "Unloading car Olkake at new low prices. P. L. Morris, Kinkora.
- "Unloading Olkake Saturday and Monday. McGuigan & Boyle.
- "Dance and Card Party, Tracadie Hall, Monday, December 29th, 1947.
- "Supper and Dance in Kelly's Cross Hall, Monday, December 29th. Meals served from 6 to 9.
- "Kinkora Hall, Monday, December 29th. Dance. Special music. Lunch served.
- "Meeting, Canadian Legion, St. Peters, Tuesday, Dec. 30, at 8 p.m. in Court House.
- "Victoria Hall, Monday 29th. Cards, dancing, lunch. Come everyone.
- "Loading Hogs at Souris for Canada Packers Ltd., on Tuesday, December 30th, until noon. Roddie MacIntyre.
- "Collecting hogs every Thursday for Canada Packers. Phone N. A. Cuthill or write me. D. L. MacDowell.
- "While it lasts. Five Roses and Cream of the West Flour, \$4.00 per bag. Also small quantity Flaxseed, \$6.00 per hundred weight. You do custom grinding while you wait. Weston and McRae, Shur-Gain Feed Service, Windsor.

### Former King Of Italy Dies In Exile

17,000 Work At Snow Removal In New York

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 — (AP)—New York and other citizens assumed a more cheerful aspect today as a force of more than 17,000 men using 2,000 pieces of equipment pushed ahead in the struggle against the record snow that engulfed the city last Friday.

A bright sun smiled down on the city after a brief snow flurry in the morning and a forecast of temperatures in the 30s promised aid to the hard-pressed snow removal brigades.

Markets Commissioner Eugene G. Schulz announced after a survey that food supplies were ample and the Board of Transportation reported subway transportation was back to normal.

The Weather Bureau said there were no signs of renewed snow in the area hit by the storm, which swept the northeast states from Maine to the District of Columbia and took a toll of at least 61 lives.

Highest snowfall reported was 30 inches in Long Branch, N.J. New York was hit with 25.8 inches, surpassing by almost five inches the precipitation left by the blizzard of '38.

Heart attacks induced by over-exertion in combating the snow were listed as causing many of the storm deaths.

### Family Quarrel Is Blamed For Five Deaths In Ontario

### Three Lose Lives In Mystery Blast

SENNETERRE, Que., Dec. 28 — (CP)—Three Canadian National Railway employees were killed here Saturday when a gasoline engine used to operate a coal conveyor exploded, blowing a small concrete building to bits.

Killed were Jean Denis Poliquin and Irene Daigneault, both of Senneterre, and Jean Louis Dery of St. Raymond de Portneuf, Que. Poliquin and Daigneault were both married with three children.

Cause of the explosion is unknown. The building housing the engine had a cement floor and cement walls. The terrific explosion blew the whole structure to pieces and the bodies of the men were badly mangled.

An inquest and investigation will be held by the coroner tomorrow.

### Was Yes-Man To Mussolini For 20 Years

ELMIRA, Ont., Dec. 28 — (CP)—Four persons were murdered and a fifth, the slayer, committed suicide Saturday night during what appears to have been a family quarrel following a drinking party.

The dead are: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Letson, Percy and Wilson Letson, brothers of Hugh.

Walter (Pat) Letson, cousin of Hugh Letson.

Police said it was Walter Letson who turned a shotgun on his three relatives and Mrs. Letson, and then committed suicide.

The five bodies were found tonight in the Letson home at West Montrose, a hamlet six miles east of here and 12 miles north of Kitchener, by an aged and deaf resident of the same house, 90-year-old Matthew Pollock.

Provincial Police from Kitchener went to the scene and questioned friends and neighbors of the family. Police officers said there had been a party at the Letson home, and that the evidence was that Letson had killed the other four and then committed suicide.

Police however, could give no motive for the quadruple slaying and the suicide.

Pollock apparently slept all through the party and the slayings.

Late today he was unable to rouse his nephew, Walter Letson, and he went to a neighbor's home and told Mrs. Olive Heibeln that he had killed her husband and took hold of him, but he's cold.

Neighbors then went to the household at West Montrose and discovered five dead.

Hugh Letson was 45, his wife, Mary, 40, his brother Wilson, 43, and Percy 38. Walter was believed to be about 40.

Police said that the shootings apparently occurred late Saturday night but that Walter Letson had not committed suicide until early Sunday.

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Letson and the two brothers were in the living room of the home, Percy on a couch and the others on the floor. Walter Letson's body was found beside his car in the garage.

The living room of the house was soaked in blood and the walls and floors were pocked with shotgun pellets.

Police said that they had located a key witness in the slayings.

Long before the funeral service, Mr. Letson was seen leaving the Letson home early Sunday morning. She was in a state of hysteria but police officers would not say whether she had given them the story of the tragedy.

### U. S. Fire Losses At All-time High

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 — (AP)—Fire losses in the United States reached an all-time high of \$700,000,000 this year.

It is the highest annual loss ever recorded by a country in peacetime and tops Great Britain's property loss from the two year German blitz by \$300,000,000.

Flames ate up millions of bushels of grain which might have gone to Europe's needy in scattered confiscations.

The domestic housing supply was set back when fire destroyed a \$1,000,000 factory in Austin, Tex., that was turning out 400 prefabricated dwellings a month.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters estimates that in 1947 there were 33 blazes that involved \$1,000,000 damage or more.

The Board of Underwriters said the number of fires in 1947 probably exceeds the 840,000 estimate for the previous year.

### Crew Of Russian Ship Reticent

SAINT JOHN, N.B., Dec. 28 — (CP)—Reticence is the watchword aboard the motor vessel Vilnius, first Russian boat to enter Saint John harbor in 15 years.

A brief interview with the chief officer ended when the Captain, T. Gavrilov, ordered him not to give any interviews. "Ask the Russian Embassy in Ottawa," was the reply to all further questions.

The crew of 50 includes several women. When a reporter attempted conversation with one she was ordered back to the galley, from which came a strong odor of cabbage soup. An officer then told the reporter he had taken the wrong way to reach the gangway, and escorted him to the spot.

The spottlessly clean Vilnius, named after the Russian town of Vilna, was built in Finland six years ago and bought in New York recently by the Russian Government. The 2,000 ton, 275-foot vessel is taking on a cargo of flour for the British Food Ministry.

Only the senior officers of the vessel's complement are allowed ashore.

### Fears Are Held For Safety Of Elmer McDonald

23-Year-old Man Disappeared While On Way Home In Storm

Wary searchers, who have been searching the King's County district between the Head of Montague and the Lyndale School since last Thursday were convinced last night that Elmer McDonald, 23, who has been missing since Christmas Eve, will not be found alive.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McDonald, Head of Montague, a small settlement four or five miles west of Montague, Elmer was employed with Mr. Gordon Shaw of Brackley. The young man came to Charlottetown from Brackley last Wednesday morning and took the 4 p.m. Charlottetown-Murray Harbor train for Ugg, the nearest station to his home.

It is understood that he got off at Ugg between 5 and 6 o'clock and was driven to the Lyndale School where a Christmas concert was being held Wednesday night. That was the last time the young man was seen.

With about two feet of snow on the level in that district scores of searchers have been tramping through the woods and fields between the Lyndale School and the young man's home on the assumption that he started for home after the concert was over. But there are heavy drifts, several feet deep in places, and searchers said last night that such a handicap has made a thorough scrutiny of the district impossible.

### Mother And Children Fire Victims Interred

### Liner Ascania Docks At Halifax

HALIFAX, Dec. 28 — (CP)—First Cunard-Donaldson liner to resume peacetime service between Great Britain and Canada, the 14,000-ton Ascania, slipped into her berth here today from Liverpool with 720 passengers, nearly all immigrants.

Under command of Capt. G. N. Jones, wartime convoy commander, the Ascania is the only one of eight liners the firm operated between Canada and England before the war to return to service. Two, the Athena and the Andania, were sunk and the others are still in British Government service.

### Blame Sabotage For Fire

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Dec. 28 — (CP)—A fire which raged 45 hours and wasted 500,000 cubic feet of natural gas in Ferryland, South Trinidad, before being subdued last night was due to "sabotage", it was announced officially here today.

### Fear 500 Drowned At Hankow, China

SHANGHAI, Dec. 28 — (Reuters)—Five hundred persons were feared drowned in Hankow when fire aboard the Chinese river steamer Vanhsing Saturday caused panic among the 700 passengers, most of whom plunged into the icy Yangtze River, the Chinese paper Shua Pao reported today.

More than 70 bodies had already been recovered, the newspaper said. The fire was extinguished only after it had spread to three other river steamers and more than a dozen junks in the vicinity.

### Ontario Mother And Daughter Die In Fire

HAZELDEAN, Ont., Dec. 28 — (CP)—After assisting two young daughters to safety through a second-story window, Mrs. Beulah Bennett, 30, was burned to death early today as she sought to rescue a third as fire destroyed a frame farm building 2 1/2 miles north of here. Bodies of mother and daughter, eight-year-old June, were recovered in the smoldering embers.

In all, seven persons made their way to safety when the blaze started in the kitchen and then spread rapidly.

With the flames raging in the upper part of the structure Mrs. Bennett lowered a bedroom window through a bedroom window which she jumped into in an attempt of their father and grandfather. She then turned to fight the denser smoke to rescue June, in bed and screaming for aid. Apparently she was overcome before reaching the child.

### Anglo-Russian Trade Agreement Is Signed

LONDON, Dec. 28 — (CP)—Britain will receive 750,000 tons of coarse grain from Russia, instead of the 500,000 tons of animal feedstuffs previously reported, Tass official Russian news agency, said today.

Tass reported a trade agreement signed Saturday night in Moscow also contains a decision to begin new, longer range trade talks by next May.

Dispatches from Moscow said the agreement was signed in the Spiridonovka Palace, where the Big Three foreign ministers met in December 1945.

Ambassador Sir Maurice Peterston, ill of influenza, got out of bed for the first time in almost a week to sign for Britain. A. I. Mikoyan, Minister of Foreign Trade, signed for the Soviet Union. Sir Maurice was quoted by Moscow radio as saying: "This is a preliminary agreement which looks forward to wider discussions in May covering a considerable range of goods."

"Both sides consider that the present agreement will serve both the development of Soviet-British trade in the mutual interests of both countries, and the cause of the speedy restoration of the international economic relations disrupted by the war."

A spokesman for the British Board of Trade confirmed the signing of the pact but declined to disclose its details before Monday. A Moscow dispatch said the British negotiators left the Russian Capital today for home.

Tass said Russia guaranteed to deliver the 750,000 tons—about 27,500,000 bushels—of grain between next February and September at prices agreed upon but not disclosed.

### Snowplow Derailed

HALIFAX, Dec. 28 — (CP)—Traffic over Canadian National Railway lines in Nova Scotia was delayed as much as 12 hours after a snowplow left the rails early today near Wellington, 25 miles from here on the Truro-Halifax route.

The wedge shaped plow, being pushed by a locomotive, overturned and caused the engine to derail, tearing up rails and ties for about 200 yards. No one was injured.

C. N. R. officials said the route had resumed operation but arriving and departing trains still were running late.

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### Pope Plus Recovers From Flu Attack

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 28 — (AP)—Pope Plus has recovered from his light attack of influenza. He took a short walk in the Vatican gardens Saturday. The Pontiff will not resume his audiences, however, until next week when he will receive diplomats to the Holy See for traditional New Year's greetings.

### Halifax Woman To Face Murder Charge

HALIFAX, Dec. 28 — (CP)—Mrs. Kathleen Secary, 34-year-old widowed mother of five children, will be charged with murder in the shotgun slaying of Philip Shiers, 32, with whom she had been living, R.C.M.P. said here tonight.

Shiers died in hospital early today of wounds received yesterday in his home at nearby Enfield. He had been rushed to hospital shortly after being hit in the back by the 20-gauge shotgun blast.

After the city medical examiner had conducted a post-mortem on the body, Mounted Police announced they would arrest Mrs. Secary on the murder charge.

A constable and police-matron were sent to Enfield to bring the woman, whose legitimate husband had been dead several years, into Halifax. They were accompanied by Child Welfare officials who said they would arrange care for the children.

An R.C.M.P. official said that no motive had been assigned to the killing so far. He said the two had "been bickering and arguing all morning." The shooting occurred about 1 p.m. yesterday.

It was thought there was no one except Mrs. Secary, the victim and some of the children in the Enfield home at the time of the killing. An R.C.M.P. ambulance had been summoned to bring the fatally-injured man to Halifax.

The nature of Shiers' employment could not be learned but it was thought that Mrs. Secary kept house for him. R.C.M.P. said they did not know yet how long the two had been living together in the house.

They said the formal murder charge would probably be laid tomorrow. They did not disclose whether the accused had confessed to the killing.

### BOY SENTENCED

WOODSTOCK, N. B., Dec. 28 — (CP)—A 12-year-old boy was sentenced Saturday to two years in the Boys' Industrial Home at Saint John after he pleaded guilty to a charge of indecently assaulting a 13-year-old girl. Police said the boy had followed the girl and her nine-year-old cousin as they walked toward home near the town outskirts. One of the girls ran home but police said the boy dragged the other girl into a gravel pit.

### HOUSES BURNED

HAZELDEAN, Ont., Dec. 28 — (CP)—After assisting two young daughters to safety through a second-story window, Mrs. Beulah Bennett, 30, was burned to death early today as she sought to rescue a third as fire destroyed a frame farm building 2 1/2 miles north of here. Bodies of mother and daughter, eight-year-old June, were recovered in the smoldering embers.

In all, seven persons made their way to safety when the blaze started in the kitchen and then spread rapidly.

With the flames raging in the upper part of the structure Mrs. Bennett lowered a bedroom window through a bedroom window which she jumped into in an attempt of their father and grandfather. She then turned to fight the denser smoke to rescue June, in bed and screaming for aid. Apparently she was overcome before reaching the child.

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The flour that blooms in the oven

## BLOSSOM

CANADA

## FLOUR

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