

U. K. LUMBER CONTRACT FOR EASTERN CANADA LIKELY

11 Men Row 15 Hours After Ship Sinks Following Fire Two Snags Remain To Be Overcome, Ottawa Says

Speculate On Cabinet, Senate Appointments

Sr. Laurent Calls Press Conference Today; MacNaught Mentioned as Cabinet Possibility.

OTTAWA, Dec. 21 (CP)—Prime Minister St. Laurent will hold a press conference at 10 A.M. EST (11 A.M. AST) tomorrow in the wake of morning and afternoon sessions of the Cabinet today.

A heavy agenda was reported placed in front of the Ministers for what were probably their final meetings before Christmas.

The Capital speculated about Cabinet and Senate appointments and the date of the opening of the next session of Parliament, among other things.

Appointment of at least one new Minister within the next few weeks is considered likely. It would permit organization of three departments before start of the next session, believed scheduled for late January, or early February.

The new Minister will be the 22nd member of the Cabinet which was enlarged at the recent session of Parliament.

Reconstruction and Supply, and Mines and Resources were legislated out of existence by a bill, replacing them with three departments known as Mines and Technical Surveys, Citizenship and Immigration, and Resources and Development.

Coming Events

- *Concert, New Haven, December 22nd
- *Mail your Films to Garnham Photo Studio, Charlottetown.
- *Kelvin Grove Christmas Concert, Thursday, December 22nd.
- *Cavendish School Christmas Concert, Friday, December 23rd.
- *St. Catherine's School Concert, Thursday, December 22nd.
- *Regular Dance at Skyline, New London, each Friday night.
- *St. Catherine's School Concert, Thursday, December 22nd.
- *Show Morell every Tuesday and Friday only, Show 8 o'clock.
- *Graham's Road School Concert, Thursday, December 22nd.
- *Christmas Concert, Pleasant Grove, Friday, December 23rd.
- *Christmas Concert, Elliotville School, Friday, December 23rd.
- *New Glasgow School Christmas Concert, December 23rd.
- *Dance, Corran Bann Hall, Monday, December 26th. Melody Boys' Orchestra.
- *Cornwall School Concert, Friday, Dec. 23, 7:30 sharp. Lunches sold. Proceeds school.
- *Hunter River School Concert in Masonic Hall Thursday, Dec. 22nd.
- *Dunstaffnage School Concert, Marshfield Hall, Thursday, December 22nd.
- *Newton School Christmas Concert, Thursday, December 22nd, at 8 P. M.
- *Show, "Rachel and the Stranger" at New Glasgow tonight at 8:00.
- *Brookfield School Concert in Hall, Friday, December 23rd, at 8 P. M.
- *Dance Wood Islands East School, December 26th, sponsored by the Women's Institute.
- *Burgins in groceries until Christmas, good selection of gifts. Store open evenings. McGulgan & Boyle.
- *Auction and dance Vernon River Hall, Monday, Dec. 26th. Auctioneers C.W.L. Millview Orchestra.
- *Anyone wishing to contribute to the Children's Christmas at Protestant Orphanage may leave parcels at Office, 158 Prince Street.

Bank Bandits Get \$8,000

ROUQUEMONT, Que., Dec. 21 (CP)—Two French-speaking bandits robbed the sub-branch of the Banque Canadienne Nationale of \$8,000 today after demanding all the cash in the bank.

Miss Deliza Fortin, who manages the branch in this village 40 miles southeast of Montreal, told police the men entered the bank five minutes before the 3 p.m. closing time. One held a revolver. Both wore black handkerchiefs over their faces.

One said in French: "Give us all the money you have," and Miss Fortin handed over the contents of the cash drawer. Then they warned her to sound no alarm for five minutes, jumped into a waiting car and drove off in the direction of Granby.

Miss Fortin said the money was the entire amount in the bank.

Action Delayed On Egg Price Support

OTTAWA, Dec. 21 (CP)—The Cabinet tonight decided to withhold action on price support for eggs for at least another week.

The decision was made after an all-day extraordinary session of the Cabinet—one of the longest in recent months.

Prime Minister St. Laurent is expected to make a statement on the decision taken at his press conference at 10 A.M. EST tomorrow.

The stand taken by the Cabinet to delay action on price support developed out of suggestions by some Ministers that the situation currently was "too chaotic" to make a firm decision.

Prices of eggs plunged downwards 10 and 20 cents a dozen in some parts of Canada after Agriculture Minister Gardiner last week announced that the United Kingdom will buy no eggs from this country next year.

Freighter Keltic Goes Down Off Nfld. Coast

(By Joe MacSweeney)
ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Dec. 21 (CP)—A massive Nova Scotian skipper tonight told a laconic story of how he shepherded his 11-man crew from the doomed freighter Keltic.

The 522-ton ship burned and exploded just before midnight last night and her crew rowed 15 hours to make landfall. There were no injuries. The shipwreck occurred off the southern coast of the Avalon Peninsula and nothing was heard of it here until the stranded mariners arrived late today.

Capt. Wallace Thomas Myalls of North Sydney, N. S., who crushes the scales at 287 pounds—was unimpressed by the whole affair. He had nothing worse than a sprained wrist to show after the experience of abandoning ship in pitch darkness on a heavy swell.

Seek Slayer Of Tobacco Salesman

MONTREAL, Dec. 21 (CP)—A short, young man who wore a dark coat and dark hat became the object of a city-wide police search today for the slaying of a tobacco salesman.

That was about the only clue police had of the identity of the man who shot 50-year-old Viteaur Rainville in the back.

Rainville was getting merchandise in his truck on East-End Rivard Street when accosted by a man with a gun. As Rainville started to resist, the gunman fired.

Rainville died this morning in hospital soon after whispering to his wife and 18-year-old daughter: "I am going to live."

He was conscious long enough to pick from police files the picture of an ex-convict as the man he believed shot him. But police felt the identification unreliable although they began working on this lead.

Inspector Ernest Francoeur, in charge of the investigation, appealing to the public for co-operation said someone must have seen the slaying who could supply detailed information about the killer.

Rainville, a native of Casselman, Ont., had \$91.98 in his pockets and his employers said he frequently carried larger sums with him, sometimes as much as \$1,000.

Labor Party Returned In Jamaica Election

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Dec. 21 (CP)—The Labor Party headed by silver-haired, pistol-packing William A. Bustamante was returned to power for another five years in Jamaica today.

Returns from yesterday's general election in the British Caribbean island showed that Labor won 17 of the 32 seats in the House of Representatives, the same number it held at dissolution.

The People's National Party, led by Norman Manley—Bustamante's cousin—captured 13 seats. Increasing its representation by eight. Independents won the remaining two seats and one of them, Sir Harold Allan, former Finance Minister, said he would again support Labor.

The Agricultural Industrial Party lost the two seats it held before the contest.

Standing in the last House was: Labor 17, Independents 8, P.N.P. 5, Agricultural Industrial Party 2.

The P.N.P. was strong in Kingston, taking five of the six seats. Frank Pixley, Minister of Social Welfare in the last Government, was defeated in the Capital. But Bustamante got strong support in the rural areas.

The House again will have one woman member. Mrs. Rose Leon, Labor, a beauty parlor operator, defeated Mrs. Dalton James, a schoolteacher and the P.N.P. candidate. Mrs. Leon is a former Mayor of Kingston.

Bustamante, virtual Prime Minister of this colony of 1,340,000, said in an interview he is determined to do everything possible to induce outside capital to invest in development of the Jamaica industry. He is expected to leave soon for Britain to discuss trade and prices problems with the Colonial Office.

Voting was heavy in the election, one of the quietest in decades. More than 70 per cent of the 730,000 eligible voters cast ballots.

In the 1944 general election, Labor won 25 seats but lost eight through desertion from the Party during its five-year reign.

Sydney's Mayor Appears In Court; Resigns Post

(Canadian Press Correspondent)
SYDNEY, N. S., Dec. 21 (CP)—Dan Jack MacLean, facing a charge of murder, has resigned as Mayor of Sydney, it was learned tonight.

This development came a few hours after the Mayor, handcuffed and under police guard, was led into court and arraigned on the murder charge. His preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 29.

Mayor MacLean was apparently nervous and spoke in a husky voice as Magistrate Vernon Read charged him with the murder Sunday night of Joseph MacKinnon, 63-year-old semi-cripple, who was Sydney's registrar of voters.

The 62-year-old Mayor of this steel city had been discharged from hospital before entering court.

When asked if he had retained counsel he replied: "I didn't know this was going to happen until five minutes ago." But he said he would be represented by Alexander Patterson, son of Attorney-General Malcolm Patterson of Nova Scotia.

Grand Central Programs Annoy New Yorkers

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (AP)—A group of enraged commuters blasted back today at music and sales talks which have been reverberating through Grand Central Station. One testified that they are "enough to drive you nuts."

But the New York Central Railroad, which runs the big station, said the objects are excited over nothing. Besides, added a railroad spokesman, the Central gets \$93,500 for putting on the ads—and needs every cent of it.

The programs at issue originate in the station itself and are not carried by radio. It's a private advertising venture to help defray station expenses.

In part, the row is a duel between the railroad and Harold Ross, editor of the New Yorker magazine.

Ross objected in print as soon as the station started commercial programs on its public address system several months ago. Some 400 other commuters objected, too. So the State Public Service Commission held a hearing today.

For the railroad, counsel Kenneth F. Stone said "a campaign by an adult comic book" had given the proceedings a comic-opera flavor.

Ross retorted that the ears of 500,000 daily commuters are being assaulted and that the advertisers are being "swindled."

"You cannot hear anything," he declared. "It's just a ringing in your ears."

"If they get away with this, nobody will be able to read on any means of conveyance in the United States."

Stone asked Ross if his hearing was good.

"I am thinking," the editor replied, "of having an ear drum punctured."

"Did you advise readers of your magazine to make complaints?" Stone asked.

Ross said he didn't.

The lawyer then quoted from the Nov. 5 issue of the New Yorker: "We strongly advise any person to protest of call the police."

"I beg your pardon," Ross said. "I must have read that in Grand Central terminal."

Stone said a poll taken among

Fire In Boiler Room

The fire broke out in the Keltic's boiler room while she was en route from St. Pierre to Carbonear, Nfld., with coal from North Sydney. She was built in Collingwood, Ont., only four years ago.

The way Capt. Myalls told the story, the whole operation was conducted with the decorum of a cup of tea. But he did concede that "our boys were pretty tired."

He also mentioned that one man—"who doesn't wear underwear"—had to be wrapped in a sail to keep from freezing. Another chap got sick and lay in the bottom of the boat all night.

The sail was available because the spar to which it was attached snapped off shortly after the lifeboat put off from the ship. Some 40 minutes after the crew left, the Keltic blew up and sank in a lurid flame darkened by heavy black smoke.

The skipper—who used to be a Lunenburg fisherman and once lost what he terms a "small schooner"—said his chief fear was that the tiny craft would drift to sea.

As far as the explosion was concerned, "it wasn't heavy," said the Captain, holding out his hands expressively.

The men rowed some 35 miles

Surprise to Producers

The east-coast spruce contract came as a surprise to the Maritime producers. It will mean employment for hundreds of lumberjacks in the winter months, but it will by no means fill the gap between 1949 and 1950 commitments.

In 1949 the U.K. placed orders in the Maritime Provinces for 130,000 board feet of spruce at a cost of about \$2,000,000.

Even if a contract develops for the second half of 1950 equal to the contract in the first half the total will amount to no more than \$5,000,000.

A contract for Douglas fir may be placed by the U.K. in British Columbia.

Other Contracts Expected

Within a few weeks, contracts likely will be announced covering about \$18,000,000 worth of Canadian bacon and perhaps about \$6,000,000 worth of west-coast canned salmon.

This will be in addition to an Anglo-Canadian contract likely to be announced within the next few weeks, covering the shipment of between 60,000,000 and 80,000,000 pounds of cheese next year at about 26 cents a pound.

The shift of dollars from wheat to lumber, canned salmon and beef is a Canadian plan which still needs the approval of the British Treasury and the United States Economic Co-operation Administration.

Both these hurdles must be crossed before wheat dollars are tapped and the 140,000,000-bushel contract for the current crop year is nipped to 125,000,000 bushels.

In 1949 the U.K. spent approximately \$400,000,000 for Canadian wheat, bacon, eggs, cheese, salmon, apples and fruit pulp.

In 1950, she likely will spend no more than \$250,000,000 for all Canadian foodstuffs.

However, the plan does provide greater stabilization for the salmon, bacon and lumber industries than would have been possible without it.

REVENUE FROM CHRISTMAS

LONDON, Dec. 21 (CP)—The Treasury expects to make about \$3,500,000 (\$10,000,000) this year on Christmas and New Year greeting cards.

Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the House of Commons he expects purchase tax on greeting cards probably will reach that total.

Possible Choices

Some of those who are already parliamentary assistants are being considered as possible choices, notably Ralph Maybank, member for Winnipeg South Centre and assistant to Mr. Gibson; James Sinclair, a British Columbia member from Coast-Capilano and assistant to Finance Minister Abbott; and Watson MacNaught, who represents the P.E.I. constituency of Prince and is assistant to Fisheries Minister Mayhew.

The current speculative favorite is Mr. MacNaught who has been a member since 1945. It has been years since P.E.I. has had a Cabinet representative, and selection of the 45-year-old lawyer would receive a warm reception in the Maritime Provinces.

Possibility of a general cabinet shuffle still exists and there has been talk of Justice Minister Garner getting another portfolio.

However, it is understood the Government would prefer to have him remain in the job—not wanting to give the impression that he is being shifted as the result of the recent blow-up in the Commons over the flour-milling combine report.

Hearing On Dec. 29

The court recessed five minutes while court officials tried without success to reach Mr. Patterson. Then the arraignment continued and Crown Prosecutor Donald Finlayson suggested Dec. 29 as the date for start of the preliminary hearing. Mr. MacLean will remain in County Jail here until that time.

Reached later by reporters, Mr. Patterson said he had not been asked to represent Mr. MacLean and added that he would not.

The Mayor's left arm was in a sling and a bruise showed on the left side of his face as he stood before the Magistrate, neatly dressed but with his hair tousled. He walked with a slight limp and his left hand appeared swollen.

The Chief Magistrate was taken to hospital Sunday after the body of Mr. MacKinnon was found in a darkened south-end alleyway, his head badly cut and his chest crushed.

Two youths living nearby told police they saw a car driving over a body in the alleyway.

Court Decision On Freight Rates Scheduled Today

OTTAWA, Dec. 21 (CP)—The Supreme Court of Canada tomorrow will hand down a decision that may have an important bearing on the future of Canada's long battle over railway freight rates.

The court will rule at 12 noon AST on the propriety of the Board of Transport Commissioners' September judgment which gave the railways only eight per cent of a requested 20-per-cent general increase in rates.

The Canadian Pacific Railway carried the case to the high court. It contended the board had failed in its duty by ruling on only part of the application and giving an "interim" increase pending final determination of the railways' case.

100 Vancouver Stores Defy Closing By-law

VANCOUVER, Dec. 21 (CP)—An estimated 100 retail stores in downtown Vancouver are open today in defiance of a Wednesday closing by-law. Police Chief Walter Mulligan warned the merchants would be prosecuted, but there was no immediate police action.

A New York psychiatrist, Dr. Harold J. Harris, said the commuters' "suppressed rage and hostility" might give them ulcers as well.



Two Youths In Court On Murder, Robbery Charge

VALLEYFIELD, Que., Dec. 21 (CP)—Two 18-year-old farmhands appeared in a tense, packed courtroom today on charges of murdering a taxi driver and the armed robbery of a bank.

Following separate preliminary hearings on the murder counts, at which lengthy medico-legal evidence was introduced, Gerwin Patenaude and Kenneth Bevin were ordered for voluntary statement Dec. 27.

Arraigned on the armed-robbery charges immediately afterward, Bevin pleaded guilty and Patenaude elected preliminary hearing. Bevin's sentence was deferred. Patenaude's preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 27.

The crown's evidence on the murder charges centred on the evidence of Dr. Jean-Marie Rousset, Provincial medico-legal expert, who testified that Lucien Brunette died from multiple blows on the head from an instrument such as a hammer.

Brunette, 34-year-old Huntingdon, Que., taxi driver, was slain Dec. 11. The following day the Ormstown, Que., branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce was held up and robbed of a sum variously estimated at from \$800 to \$1,400.

Several hundred persons, milling about in the rain, tried to enter the Valleyfield courthouse, but only 300 could be jammed into the courtroom of Magistrate Maurice Fortin.

The hearing was delayed more than three hours because of the late arrival, under police escort, of Patenaude from Montreal's Bordeaux Jail where he has been held. Bevin has been held in the Valleyfield Jail.

Dr. Rousset testified regarding his examination of bloodstains on a mechanic's hammer, a workman's shirt and underclothing. Human hairs adhering to the stains on the hammer, he said, were identical with those from Brunette's head.

He also said his examination of a car in a Montreal garage, showed human bloodstains and hair on the left front window and these hairs, also, matched Brunette's. There was blood on the left running board, and on the interior top covering of the car there were more hairs.

The two youths were arrested Dec. 13 in the hayloft of a barn 16 miles from Huntingdon. An hour later they allegedly led police to Brunette's body at the edge of a brook near the Quebec-New York state border.

Both testified at the coroner's inquest that they had beaten Brunette with a hammer and had taken \$40 from him. Patenaude testified that he and Bevin drove into Montreal and returned to Ormstown by taxi.

Expect Canada's Bill For Defense To Increase

(By Douglas How)
OTTAWA, Dec. 21 (CP)—Canada's defence costs, a record \$383,000,000 this year, are expected in informed circles to be even higher next year.

But there are indications the new increase won't be in the same league with the spectacular 40-per-cent hoist this fiscal year showed over last.

The total will be made public within the next three or four months in Finance Minister Abbott's budget for the 1950-51 fiscal year that starts next April 1.

Nobody knows today just how big it will be. That's the no. 1 question around the three wartime buildings that house defence headquarters and Mr. Abbott, once Defence Minister himself, is the key and central figure in the speculation.

Canada's new budget as a whole, it is understood, will aim at a balance between revenues and expenditures without any new taxes. Mr. Abbott is understood to have informed defence planners that such an objective is not compatible with any major increase in their spending.

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BORDEN - TORMENTINE FERRI WEEK DAYS

Lv. Borden	Lv. Cape Tormentine
9:10 A.M.	10:35 A.M.
1:00 P.M.	2:40 P.M.
4:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.

SUNDAYS

Lv. Borden	Lv. Cape Tormentine
9:15 A.M.	10:35 A.M.
4:45 P.M.	8:00 P.M.