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MON.—TUE.—WED.

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NOAH BEERY, Jr.

The Beautiful Cheat
Margaret IRVING
Sarah SELBY
Carol HUGHES
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Washington Spotlight

BY CLYDE BLACKBURN
 WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (CP)—The need for friendly, generous, understanding thinking on British problems by the American people was seldom greater than when the announcement was made that arrangements had been completed for a \$4,400,000,000 loan to Britain subject to Congressional approval. But a simple circumstance on that very day set up a train of anti-British thought in the quarters where it could do the most harm.

Washington correspondents were called to the State Department in the afternoon to be given texts of the loan and associated agreements and an exhaustive background talk by State Secretary Byrnes and the chief American negotiators.

They were pledged to release news of what they had been told or given, until 5:30 p. m. the next day. They were not even permitted to say the loan agreement had been reached.

Before the reporters got back to their offices the news service were carrying a story on a broadcast by the BBC, quoting its Washington correspondents as reporting that the loan agreement

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had been reached and stating the general terms.

American correspondents greeted their teeth in rage but stuck by their restrictions as to release of the story and their papers used only London dispatches announcing the end of the long negotiations.

As a matter of fact the only breach was to say that the loan agreement had been reached. Every reporter who cared to had already been able to report accurately that agreement was imminent and to give almost the exact details.

Nevertheless there has been much said and written about the alleged BBC breach and that, coupled with past events, adds to the ammunition of those out to defeat the loan in Congress.

As if that were not enough, about the same time the loan was announced the chairman of the British Labor Party, Prof. Harold J. Laski, in a New York address, declared in essence that the American way of life was leading the people straight to serfdom.

Anti-British Congressmen and writers seized upon both these incidents, along with the conflicting reports of British imperialism in Iran and Indonesia, as arguments against the proposed loan, and there is certain of a stormy passage through Congress. That it will be approved eventually, however, no one seems to seriously doubt.

Canada is well-represented in Washington by its Embassy and Information Service but Canadian inquirers often pick this reporter's telephone number when seeking information. The queries run all the way from information on how to get Prince Edward Island blueberries to the availability of Canadian caviar; the possibility of getting into the Canadian irregular army and what is the best Canadian newspaper.

The prize query came from a Washington lawyer who wanted to know what Canadian city he should settle in and what his prospects were for admission to the Canadian bar.

His reason for moving to Canada he replied: "I have two growing sons; this country is going to enact compulsory military training; I don't want my sons to go through that and I am sure they won't have to if they are brought up in Canada."

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VAPOR-NOL

New Effort To Halt Strike In Australia

By WILLIAM STEWART
 (SYDNEY, Australia, Dec. 12) — (CP Cable)—With Australia facing its most dismal Christmas in recent times, three Labor Ministers sat down at a conference table in Melbourne today in a new effort to avert fast reaching strikes which have already thrown more than 500,000 workers into idleness.

The strikes involve only 36,000 men in the steel industry, where the trouble started in September, the coal mines and the merchant marine but shortages of fuel have closed down many other industries, have bitten deep into public utilities and shortened the domestic life of the people. From New South Wales where the strikes began, the effects have swept through the eastern continent, touching each state and moving across Bass Strait to the island state of Tasmania.

Even New Zealand, 1,200 miles away across the Tasman Sea, may be seriously hit because it depends on Australian coal.

As the strike became more serious, Prime Minister Chifley began a series of conferences in Canberra, the national capital, with union and management officials. These meetings ended unsuccessfully yesterday.

So severe has the situation become as a result of the strike that Canberra is a virtually blacked-out city. Mr. Chifley was reported working by lamp-light.

Works Minister John J. Cahill of New South Wales sounded an alarming note today when he warned that there will be neither gas nor electricity at Christmas unless coal is obtained in the meantime.

Robert G. Menzies, Federal Opposition Leader and former Prime Minister, today declared in Canberra that the Government should order the strikers to return to work and that legal action should be taken against the "chief wreckers" if the order was disobeyed.

The strikes have brought about an unprecedented restriction of common necessities in New South Wales, reducing living conditions to a level which may go below that of Europeans during the war.

With home cooking cut to one meal a day, electric lighting in homes and public buildings a black-out of all major cities in prospect because of the lack of coal and electric power, the deadlock has taken on much more serious note than at first.

If public transportation and lighting systems exhausted, supplies altogether, what will happen is anybody's guess.

Politicians Kept Busier During 1945

By D'Arcy O'Donnell
 Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, Dec. 14 — (CP) Administration of the affairs of the country kept Canadian legislators busier during 1945 than in practically any other of the war years, mainly because of the problems arising out of the end of the war and the need for orderly reconstruction.

Early in the year a pre-election session was called to approve of the sending of a delegation to the United Nations security conference in San Francisco. Sufficient money was voted to carry on the administration until the end of August.

This done Parliament was dissolved April 17 and preparations made for a general election June 11, with Prime Minister Mackenzie King reshuffling his cabinet and filling 18 senate vacancies before polling day.

When results of the election became known dutifully with the counting of the service vote June 19, the Liberal party was back in power with 126 seats, compared with its previous strength of close to 170. Progressive Conservatives increased their representation from 40 to 56, the C.C.F. boosted Social Credit Party from 10 to 13.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King was defeated in his Saskatchewan riding of Prince Albert but later easily won a by-election in the Ontario constituency of Glengarry. Gen. McNaughton, defeated in a February by-election in Grey North, was defeated again and resigned as defence minister. He was appointed co-chairman of the Canadian United States permanent joint defence board.

Revenue Minister MacLaren, brought into the cabinet in the pre-election campaign, was defeated. He resigned and was named Lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick.

King named Navy Minister Abbott to take over the defence portfolio with that of naval services. Sir James Stewart, who had been named revenue minister.

Capital Closeups

BY JACK BRAYLEY
 OTTAWA, Dec. 15 (CP)—If the House concludes its business this week, many a member will be largely because of the activities of that rough tough Liberal singer group known as "Little Chicago."

They occupy a block of five rows of Government benches between the opposition and they acknowledge good-humored Jean T. Richard, Liberal member for Ottawa East, as their ringleader.

This band of young back-benchers have led the division during the curbing of the curbing long-winded questions have banged their desks loudest in approval of any sign of efficiency in the House.

They have created barn-yard cries for appropriate occasions and have a way of letting the lips of their desks bang emphatically when they disapprove of anything.

They feel the greatest recognition of their value and power came this week during the Social Credit filibuster on the monetary agreement. Irrked at what they declared were repetitious arguments from the monetary agreement, they heckled and interrupted at the beginning of the fourth day of the debate. They remained in their seats and shouted barbs at the Social Crediters when the Monday sitting adjourned for lunch.

Finally on Tuesday their hard-edged quarrel sent across an emissary who assured them if they would be quiet for an hour his party would be ready to let the contentious bill go to the committee "Little Chicago" held a hurried "caucus" and remained mum.

"It's significant," smiled Mr. Rutherford, "that the Crediters sent their emissary to us and not to the Cabinet front benches."

Chief of the Barn-Yard Yell and Sharp Heckling Section is Phileas Cote, plump and witty Liberal member for Missisquoi. He gave "Little Chicago" its name and claims he chose the designation "because we're a tough lot as anybody can see."

Income Tax Reduced

Finance Minister Beley brought down a long awaited budget and announced a 16 per cent decrease in personal income tax and reductions in the corporation tax and the tax on dividends.

Mr. Beley later served as acting Prime Minister while Mr. King went on a fact finding tour to Britain and to Washington for discussions on the use of atomic energy and other matters.

The task of premiership was not made easier by the strength of the opposition in the Commons. John Bracken, appointed Progressive Conservative leader in 1942, was elected in the general election. J.M. Macdonnell, former president of the National Trust Company was elected Member for Muskoka-Ontario. Maj.-Gen. G.R. Pearkes, V.O. former officer commanding the Pacific command came in to take member's place.

Nansimo, a member of the staff alongside Lt.-Col. Cecil Merritt, winner of the Victoria Cross at Dieppe, Col. Merritt was elected in Vancouver Burrard.

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Mess Room Chatter

WITH THE R.C.A.F. OVERSEAS, Dec. 12 (CP)—Frank Sinatra had better watch out for Lt. Don Ackerman of Saskatoon. While Don was talking to 80 girls of the R.C.A.F. Women's Division, on the Ninth Victory Loan campaign at Torquay, England, one of the young things stood up, groaned softly and passed out in a dead faint.

Ackerman said he didn't know if she bought any bonds or not.

Four encores were given by Lt. Dick Dick of Winnipeg when he appeared before a packed house as guest artist of the Municipal Symphony Orchestra at Torquay, England. The audience liked his singing of "Celeste Aida" and later of "Passing By," Rubens' "The Astra," and "Come to the Fair."

Dick served as a rear medic.

Irish Girl May Get Big Hollywood Role

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 12 (CP)—It's another of Hollywood's little incongruities that a girl who looks like Alice in Wonderland is a leading nominee for the role of Amber in "Forever Amber."

The girl is Peggy Cummins, a very earnest little Irish actress who played Alice on the London stage. Her hair is long and blonde, her eyes are dusky violet. There is an elfin quality about her small, pale face.

That doesn't sound like the Amber that Kathleen Winsor wrote about.

Yet Twentieth Century-Fox officials say definitely that Peggy is being considered for the role; moreover, that her present screen grooming by wardrobe and makeup

LONG DISTANCE ROMANCE

LONDON — (CP) — A courtship conducted by letter from the Burmese jungle ended with wedding bells at St. Catherine's Church, Shepherd's Bush, when Driver James Lawler, Essex Regt. groomed by wardrobe and makeup

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