

Spain Revises Poorly Planned Export Program



CAN'T CURB STRIKE

The plea of French premier Robert Schuman to halt their strikes has been rejected. Over 150,000 workers are striking and France's internal economy is crippled. Schuman offered a cost-of-living raise for all salaried workers, amounting to \$15.60 a month.

Thrashing O. K. For Erring Wife

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec. 3 — (CP) — In the eyes of the law of both the black man and the white, Yamba, a full-blooded aborigine, was justified in giving his unfaithful wife Biddi Biddi a severe thrashing with his nulla-nulla (a heavy native club). But the white man's law decreed that a native sent to Fitzroy Crossing, West Australia, that he had no right whatever to use his spear on her as well.

The judge condoned the clubbing, but held that Yamba had inflicted grievous bodily harm on his wife with the spear and sent him to jail for four months.

Biddi Biddi had just returned from a long "walkabout" with a young buck of Yamba's tribe when the chastisement took place.

TEAR GAS USEFUL. Chloropicrin, the tear gas of the First World War, has been found a good preventive of earworm damage to several crops.

By HENRY BUCKLEY
MADRID, Dec. 3 — (Reuters)

Spain is revising her post-war export program which gives every appearance of not having been planned with sufficient care.

The first concrete step towards this revision came with the official announcement that all "combined accounts" have been suspended.

The "combined accounts" system was aimed at stimulating exports by allowing exporting firms to retain the foreign currency produced by their merchandise shipped abroad and to bring in imports with this money.

But apparently some checking up recently revealed that export licenses granted for almonds during 1947 in connection with these "combined accounts" totalled twice the quantity of a normal annual almond crop in Spain and prompt action was taken to suspend this system.

In the case of almonds the result of this move by exporters to get foreign currency had led to a sharp rise in prices in Spain and at the same time almond prices had been forced down abroad by excessive offers in the main markets for these nuts.

Another unsatisfactory feature of the export field is textiles, which — although exports are enormously above pre-war figures — have not made the advances which could have been made if production costs had been kept down.

As high production costs are due in part to high wages and social reforms, there is a difference of opinion between the labor ministry and the ministry of industry and commerce as to policy on this question.

Necessities Neglected. Generally speaking, the criticism directed against the ministry of industry and commerce is that it has not concentrated sufficiently on the main necessities and has allowed too much non-essential industrial development to take place in the last couple of years.

For instance, neither of the nitrogen plants initiated by the National Institute of Industry some years ago and vitally needed for fertilizers to step up food production, has yet been completed.

It is only fair to Spain to say that in 1943 the Germans offered to supply complete mechanical equipment for these plants to boost Spain's production of fertilizers to 100,000 tons a year. In return the Germans asked for 100 tons of copper. Spain declined the offer.

Another chance to obtain from Germany large quantities of machinery for cellulose plants for modern textile production was missed during the war when the Reich offered to send this machinery against peseta payments. But the bureaucrats of the National Institute of Industry took 18 months to decide to accept — but at the time the deal was no longer possible. Much of this machinery is understood to be lying crated in German factories today; but there appears to be little chance of Spain obtaining it.

INCREASED ALLOWANCE?

OTTAWA, Dec. 3 — (CP) — An increase in the subsistence allowance for the three Canadian armed services will probably be announced during the coming session of Parliament, it was learned today.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GULF

The People's Paper Read by Everybody

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

SECOND SECTION

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P. E. Island Hospital Officers And Trustees



(Photo by Garnham)

Left to right: Miss Anna J. R. Mair, Hospital Superintendent, Mr. Justice George J. Twedy, chairman, Mrs. Lois MacDonald, director of nurses, R. S. P. Jardine, N. D. MacLean, secretary, Arthur H. Mould, manager, J. Andrew Lukely, J. E. Harris, Dr. H. H. Pierce, Milton Stewart, Ernest A. Cudmore. Other members of the Board of Trustees not present when the above photograph was taken include J. Wilfred Boulter, Dr. J. P. Lantz, Claude Smith, Mrs. W. E. Cotton, Mrs. Gordon Letch.

Talent, Beauty Win World Trip For This N. Z. Belle

By J. C. GRAHAM
(Canadian Press Correspondent)

AUCKLAND, N. Z. Dec. 3 — (CP) — The old saw, "beautiful but dumb," can't be applied to New Zealand's beauty queens. In fact a beauty contest in this Dominion is something of a cross between a radio quiz, a Rhodes Scholarship selection and a domestic science examination.

That at least is the impression given by the quest just concluded which was conducted primarily to raise funds to send food to Britain. The requirements which the judges had to take into account were: overall the most comprehensive ever laid down for such a contest.

They were instructed to select a girl not only of attractive personality and appearance, but also one with cultural, artistic, sporting and homemaker qualifications. A talent for leadership was required as well as a good knowledge of New Zealand's history, geography and cultural traditions.

In addition she had to be photogenic and have broadcasting talent and the ability to make impromptu and set speeches and to meet people

with charm and poise.

The contest, which raised over \$40,000, attracted a large number of entries. The candidates were narrowed down to nine district finalists who were given an exhaustive series of tests. Two of the nine finalists were Maori; and one of whom was among the last three in the running.

The winner, 21-year-old Mary Woodton, of Christchurch, will visit Canada next year as part of her award. First she will fly from Auckland to England, where she will be given a screen test at the J. Arthur Rank studios and will have a wardrobe designed for her by Norman Hartnell, creator of Princess Elizabeth's wedding gown.

On her homeward journey she will cross the Atlantic by one of the Empress liners of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and after touring the breath of the Dominion will board a plane at Vancouver for the flight back to New Zealand.

Expenses of the tour will be paid by a group of companies backing the contest, and the winner has been given \$800 for sundry expenses.

Miss New Zealand is five feet, six inches in height, weighs 130 pounds, has grey eyes and long golden hair which she wears in a coronet braid. She has a radiant smile and a pink and white complexion. An enthusiastic member of the Christchurch Repertory Theatre, she has played leads in several productions. She is a first receptionist, but would like a stage career.

To win the contest she had to pass a series of exacting and unexpected tests put to her by the judges. Candidates were suddenly introduced to a judge representing the Queen in the form of a "Pleased to meet you". They were confronted with an immigrant coal miner anxious to hear the worst and the price of beer and liquor laws and the price of beer and with a demand to make a speech on a radio hook-up to the whole of the British Commonwealth.

They were asked to describe how they would prepare a meal if their future husbands unexpectedly brought an important client to dinner when they had only some cold mutton, a few carrots and some macaroni available. They had to be ready to give thumb-nail accounts of New Zealand to classes of schoolchildren in England and Canada. Photographs of the girls were taken in day and evening dresses, but bathing suits were barred.

Southgate Grateful For Canadian Food

LONDON, Dec. 3 — (CP) — The mayor of London's Southgate borough has released a "letter for Canadian papers" expressing the district's gratitude for a consignment of gift food received from the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire.

"The quality of the food and the excellence of the packing are deserving of the highest praise," he said, after describing how the gifts were distributed among 7,000 aged and needy persons.

"After eight years of very restricted diet, it is impossible to convey to you how welcome are the delightful and varied additions that come from Canada and the other dominions and

Navy Shuffle Is Announced

OTTAWA, Dec. 3 — (CP) — Naval Service Headquarters tonight announced a shuffle of its East Coast officers under which Canada's latest Tribal Class destroyer, H.M.C.S. Athabaskan, now nearing completion in Halifax Shipyards, will get her first commanding officer and commands will be changed aboard two other ships.

Appointed to command the Athabaskan is Lt.-Cmdr. James S. Davis of Oakville, Ont., who relinquishes his post as staff officer, ships in reserve to Lt.-Cmdr. Brian P. Young of Halifax.

Lt.-Cmdr. Young will be succeeded as captain of the H. M. C. S. New Liskeard by Lieut. Ian B. B. Morrow of Halifax, and as staff officer of ships in reserve will take command of the reserve depot ship H.M.C.S. Iroquois.

Immigrants Attend Language Classes

MONTREAL, Dec. 3 — (CP) — A former colonel in the Greek army and a Polish soldier who spent two years in a Russian prisoner-of-war camp are fellow students at language classes being held by Montreal's International Y. M. C. A. and attended by persons from 32 nations.

More than 100 persons, most of the recently-arrived immigrants, are attending the courses and their instructors say it will be six months before they have a working knowledge of English and three years before they become fluent.

The Greek colonel fought against the Italians and was a leader of the resistance movement after the German invasion of Greece. He married a Canadian girl when she visited Greece 20 years ago and their two sons now are students at McGill University.

MRS. ATTLEE ILL

LONDON, Dec. 2 — (AP) — Mrs. Clement Attlee, wife of the Prime Minister, underwent a minor operation in a nursing home today. A spokesman declined to specify the nature of the operation, but said Mrs. Attlee would be in hospital about three weeks.

NO LIFE?

Lloyd's of London, famous insurance company, handles no life insurance.

Arsenic Looks Good To Mine Engineers

FLIN FLON, Man., Dec. 3 — (CP) — Atwood Knight, Colorado School of Mining graduate, is convinced he's solved a problem which has baffled mining engineers in Northern Manitoba for almost a quarter of a century.

The engineers have been trying to bring some of the medium-gold properties into production, but have had to admit defeat because of the high percentage of arsenic in the ore. These attempts were reported to have cost more than \$1,000,000 in the last 18 years.

Knight believes he has the problem licked. The big headache to the engineers has been the cost of roasting the ore to get rid of the arsenic which is too great to permit profitable mining.

However, Knight in two years of grueling work tackled the problem from a different angle. Instead of trying to get rid of the arsenic he is just as much interested in recovering it as he is in recovering the gold.

He has directed expenditure of some \$300,000 in making extensive and successful tests and in erecting a mill and refinery at the Douglas Lake site, a few miles west of Flin Flon.

The process, he says, is too intricate for a layman to understand. The ore yields about 6 1/2 pounds of arsenic and just under 1/2 ounce of gold to the ton. After the refinery process is completed the white arsenic is 99 per cent pure.

Before going to work on the problem Knight made sure there would be a ready market for the arsenic. He has since received tentative orders from South America, Japan, Australia, France and several parts of the United States and Canada.

Pure arsenic has a number of uses, chief of which are in the manufacture of insecticides, the making of a new type of glass, and in drugs.

GET THEM YOUNG

Training of homing pigeons starts when they are about four weeks old.

POWERFUL RESULT

One hundred octane gasoline is not obtained from crude oil but is the result of a series of distillations and processes.

Since 1857, all land in the Netherlands East Indies has been owned by Indonesians, and cannot be sold to other nationals.



FASTEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

Squadron Leader James Lomas, D.F.C., 28-year-old R. A. F. Meteor jet pilot, is trying to decide if he is the fastest man on earth. He was working on a mass of speed watch recordings taken during a 313-mile flight from Edinburgh, Bowdoin, Hertfordshire in 1 min. 25 sec.—average 617 1/2 m.p.h. In his last 60-mile dash, Squadron Leader Lomas believes he went "as fast as anybody yet"—and the claimed record is 680 m.p.h. by an American. He is shown here with his aircraft.

Magellan was the first European in the region of the Mariana Islands.



PRICES AND COSTS

Everybody's Concern...

"The upthrust of prices and costs is now everybody's concern. It affects the housewife, ruefully contemplating the family budget. It enormously complicates the problem of providing urgently needed housing at prices that people can afford to pay. It reduces the real value of all accumulated savings... eating away at the hard-won rewards of foresight and thrift. For industry... it introduces additional elements of uncertainty and risk into the background of business conditions. ... while we in Canada have been spared the hardships of violent inflation, we have experienced enough of the consequences of a gradual depreciation of the purchasing power of our dollar to yearn for the advantages of a dependable standard of values in terms of a stable level of prices. At a time like the present, self-imposed restraint from charging what the traffic will bear, either for goods or the skill required to produce them, is as necessary, as practical and as prudent, as fire insurance on a highly inflammable structure. It is a safeguard that no group, representative of labour or industry... can afford to ignore in the interests of their own continued well-being, apart entirely from broader and no less important considerations of the collective welfare of the entire community."

GEORGE W. SPINNEY, President

This quotation is from the address of the President of the Bank of Montreal at the Bank's recent annual meeting. If you would like to receive, when published, a free copy of the complete annual report carrying this address, write to the Bank of Montreal, Place d'Armes, Montreal.



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