

COMMONS PASSES LEGISLATION TO CURB CRIME COMICS

Four New Taxes Imposed In Newfoundland

Danger Of Black Wart Importation To P. E. I. Slim Says Mr. Keenan

OTTAWA, Dec. 5 (Special) — Danger of introduction of the destructive black wart or potato canker into Prince Edward Island from Newfoundland does not appear very great at the present time, W. Keenan, chief of the plant protection division, Department of Agriculture told The Guardian here today.

At the same time, the disease is so deadly to potato crops and so difficult to control that no precautions are too great to keep it out of the province, he said.

"Bringing potatoes to Prince Edward Island is like bringing coals to Newcastle," Mr. Keenan observed. "Again, Newfoundland does not produce sufficient potatoes to feed her own population let alone export them. However, the disease is prevalent in Newfoundland and the Dominion Department is co-operating with that of the province in keeping it under as close control as possible."

Saves Child's Life



Prompt action by his mother, Mrs. Charles Semark, Belleville, Ont., is credited with saving the life of her son, Bobby, one who bit the top off a Christmas tree electric light bulb and swallowed part of it. Noticing him choking, she held him upside down and shook him until glass came out of his throat.

Officers of both departments plan to make further surveys to determine where the disease occurs there and how best to control it.

Purpose of public announcement of the existence of potato canker in Newfoundland, Mr. Keenan said, was to make the public conscious of the very serious effect this disease would have should it infiltrate into Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Once the danger is realized, he feels, all persons concerned will be doubly careful.

Form Revised

Prevalence of this scourge to potatoes has compelled the Federal Department of Agriculture to revise the form of its certified seed certificates. Until Confederation, the certificates set forth that there was no black wart or canker in Canada. Today the document reads "with the exception of the Province of Newfoundland."

On behalf of the Department, Mr. Keenan is calling on all persons to cooperate in keeping the potato malady away from the other nine Provinces of the Dominion.

New Trial Is Ordered For Jehovah's Witness

OTTAWA, Dec. 5 (CP) — The Supreme Court of Canada today quashed a judgment against a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses and ordered a new trial on a charge of seditious libel.

It was the first victory of the religious sect in a test case which began nearly three years ago. The Supreme Court, reversing a decision of the Quebec Court of King's Bench, ruled unanimously that the trial judge erred in his charge to the jury which heard the case in 1947.

Two of the five judges which heard the appeal would have gone even further and declared the accused, Aime Boucher of Ste. Germaine de Dorchester, Que., should be acquitted on the ground that the record contained no evidence which could have sustained his conviction.

The charge of seditious libel was brought against Boucher in connection with a pamphlet entitled, "Quebec's Burning Hate For God and Christ and Freedom Is The Shame of All Canada."

Social Security Assessment Main Revenue Producer

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Dec. 5 (CP) — Four new taxes—one of them a social security assessment—will be introduced in Newfoundland under bills brought down in the Provincial Legislature today by Finance Minister Herman Quinton.

The four bills will impose one tax of a general nature and three more specialized ones.

Main revenue producer of the four new taxes will be "a social security assessment" of three per cent on certain retail items to help pay for the social security program the Government is putting into force.

It was not immediately known what items would be affected but it was believed many consumer goods would be taxed.

No mention of these taxes was made in Mr. Quinton's budget speech Wednesday. The budget estimated a deficit of almost \$3,000,000 on current accounts during the first year of union, ending March 31, 1950.

The other three taxes are: 1. Ten cents per ton on limestone and dolomite quarried in Newfoundland.

2. Either five per cent on net profits or 10 cents per ton—whichever is the greater—for persons or companies mining iron ore in Newfoundland, including Labrador.

3. Five per cent on amount of option for persons or companies who put mineral rights or concessions on option to other persons or companies.

The four bills probably will be debated tomorrow in the House, now driving for prorogation of its second session since the first provincial general election May 27.

Earlier today, the House passed the estimates for the year ending March 31, 1950, with few amendments and tonight went on to debate the budget speech.

The taxes on mining companies would affect companies now getting ready to pump between \$150,000,000 and \$200,000,000 into development of Labrador iron ore deposits and Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation, which mines iron ore on Bell Island in Conception Bay near St. John's.

There was no immediate estimate how much the four taxes would bring in annually.

Chinese Reds Push Towards Chengtu

HONG KONG, Dec. 5 (AP) — Chinese Red troops, putting on a great burst of speed, today were reported only 100 miles or so from Chengtu, temporary and fearful Nationalist capital in Western China.

The flight of Government officials took on more urgency, press reports declared. A defence line was thrown up 30 to 50 miles from the city.

P. E. I. Men Given Jail Term, 10 Strokes of Strap

BRANTFORD, Ont., Dec. 5 (CP) — Two brothers, formerly of Souris, P.E.I., today were sentenced to 10 strokes of the strap and three months in jail each for the armed robbery of a dice game here Nov. 20.

Magistrate R. J. Gillen rejected their request that time served while in custody since their arrest be applied to their three-month term.

James M. Robertson, 21, and Allen Charles Robertson, 17, were each given three concurrent terms of three months for being together while robbing three men at the game; the younger brother received three additional concurrent terms of three months each for being armed during the robbery.

The robbery involved a dice game in which the youths had earlier lost money.

Today, Pat Marco, 105 Colborne Street, pleaded guilty to keeping a gambling establishment on the premises where the armed hold-up took place. He was fined \$200 including court costs.

Storm Brings Heavy Rain, Snow To N. S. And N. B.

HALIFAX, Dec. 5 (CP) — A wicked rainstorm sliced across Nova Scotia tonight as a follow-up to a week-end snowfall of 12 inches in Halifax and nearby areas.

The disturbance formed off Cape Cod and whipped north into Nova Scotia in less than four hours. It will cross Newfoundland tomorrow.

Guests up to 45 miles an hour whipped up and down Halifax streets tonight and across the harbor. There were no reports of ships in distress.

Rain or snow was falling in most other Maritime areas. Snowflurries were forecast for tomorrow.

SAINT JOHN, N.B., Dec. 5 (CP) — Wet, clinging snow fell over most of New Brunswick today and tonight. In the Saint John area the snow followed heavy rain.

The snowfall apparently was heaviest in the north shore and St. John River valley sections. Fredericton and Moncton reported the snow was staying on the ground. Practically all roads in the Province were believed dangerous for driving.

Flurries, with temperatures near freezing, were predicted for tomorrow.

Ontario Woman Dies Aged 108

HAMILTON, Dec. 5 (CP) — Mrs. Susan Partridge, 108, one of Canada's oldest citizens, died in hospital yesterday. She had been in poor health since her birthday in August but was in excellent spirits, said hospital authorities.

Born in Moonstone, near Coldwater, Ont., 25 years before Confederation, Mrs. Partridge was twice married. Active until recently she cast her vote at the last Federal election. She followed the news with interest each day, reading with the help of a magnifying glass.

Bill Introduced By Opposition Member From B. C.

OTTAWA, Dec. 5 (CP) — Legislation designed to curb the sale of crime-comic books and obscene literature was given speedy approval by the Commons today.

Within the next week it should pass the Senate and become law. Then the Provinces will have an act to the Criminal Code aimed at eliminating publication and sale of crime comics while discouraging the printing and sale of anything obscene, including literature, pictures and models.

The bill, originated by E. D. Fulton (PC - Kamloops), was passed with amendments proposed by Justice Minister Garson on the basis of solicited recommendations from 10 Provincial Attorneys-General.

This is what it does: It provides a two-year maximum sentence for anyone convicted of publishing or selling crime comics or for having them on hand for the purpose of being sold.

Teeth of Measure

The teeth of the measure are contained in a clause which says that it makes no difference whether the publisher or retail seller was ignorant of the contents of the books.

The same sentence is provided for anyone found guilty of publishing or selling obscene written matter, obscene pictures, obscene models or anything else which can be described as obscene.

However, in this case there is a reservation. While the publisher has no right to plead ignorance of the obscene contents, the dealer has that right.

Crime comics are defined as "any magazine, periodical or book which exclusively or substantially comprises matter depicting editorially the commission of crimes, real or fictitious."

This means that comic strips in newspapers are not affected.

No Mention of Books

There is no mention in the act of crime books such as murder and detective stories.

There are a couple of other reservations in the bill.

They provide that there can be no conviction when it is proved that the comic books or allegedly obscene literature serve "the public good," or that there was "no excess" of the objectionable matter.

This might mean that a comic book might be spared if while portraying crime, it aimed at discouraging crime by showing that it doesn't pay.

As for a book, it would not be declared obscene if it contained only a small amount of obscene matter.

Board Decides New City School Building Needed

A resolution was passed by the City School Board yesterday afternoon, Dr. R. G. Lea, presiding, authorizing the High School Committee, Mr. Earle C. Baker, chairman, "to proceed with the preliminary arrangements, including the preparation of sketch plans and the obtaining of a suitable site, as already concurred in by the City Council."

The resolution approved of the finding of the Committee that "a new school building is necessary to relieve overcrowding, and that it should provide accommodation for grades nine and ten in both academic and vocational training."

(The Spring Park site, mentioned at a meeting of the City Council last night, is one of four or five sites the School Board is considering," Mr. Baker stated.)

It was also decided that, in the tuition fees of non-resident pupils are not paid before the end of this month, they will not be allowed to return when school reopens after the Christmas holidays. Considerable routine business was also transacted.

Christmas Holidays

City schools will start the Christmas holidays on Friday noon, December 23 and will re-open at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning January 3. It was decided at the regular monthly meeting of the City School Board yesterday afternoon, Dr. R. G. Lea, chairman, presiding.

FAVORS ITALIANS

MONTREAL, Dec. 5 (CP) — Mayor Camille Houde told a meeting Sunday of the Order of the Sons of Italy that he favored "mass Italian immigration" to Canada because "only the Italians understood us." "We (French-Speaking Canadians) have few friends on the continent," Mayor Houde said, "that is why we want Latins to back us up in our fight for survival."

Wheat And Metals Keep Canada's Exports Up

OTTAWA, Dec. 5 (CP) — Wheat, base metals and farm machinery are keeping Canada's exports at a high level, although not as high as last year.

With other exports dropping, more and more of the Dominion's exports are made up of these three products, the Bureau of Statistics said today in a review of export trends.

At the end of October last year, those items accounted for 34 per cent of Canada's total export trade. From January to October this year, they've comprised 45 per cent of total exports.

Newspaper has played the same role in exports to the vital United States market. It accounted for 27.2 per cent of exports to the U. S. for the first 10 months of this year, compared with 23.8 per cent in the same period of last year.

The Bureau said the world-wide dollar shortage, "business readjustments" in the U. S. and stiffer competition "threatened the level of Canada's exports this year."

Despite this, total exports until the end of August were higher than 1948. But in September, exports dropped far below the September, 1948 total and left cumulative exports for the January-September period \$12,200,000 below exports for the same period of 1948.

The trend continued in October. At the end of the month, total exports for the year were \$2,415,100,000 — \$50,000,000 below 1948.

The Bureau said the drops may not continue. Currency devaluation by several countries, including the United Kingdom and Canada, in September can be expected to have some important effects on trade which have not yet had time to reveal themselves.

Senator A. B. Copp of Sackville, N. B. Passes

NEWCASTLE, N. B., Dec. 5 (CP) — Senator A. B. Copp, 79, of Sackville, N. B., died in the Miramichi Hospital here at 6:20 p.m. tonight after a brief illness.

He had left a train while returning from Ottawa and entered the hospital yesterday morning. The illness was described by Dr. R. H. Morrissey, the attending physician, as gastro-intestinal.

Senator Copp became ill after stopping off here to visit a sister-in-law, Mrs. G. G. Stoddard.

His death ended a public career dating back almost half a century. A former Liberal member of the New Brunswick Legislature and House of Commons, he became Secretary of State in the Mackenzie King Government in 1921 and four years later was summoned to the Senate, where he led the chamber in absences.

The Liberal leader, Senator Wishart Robertson.

Born at Joliceur, between Sackville and Port Elgin, Arthur Bliss Copp studied at Mount Allison University, Harvard University

and Dalhousie Law School. He practiced law since his admission to the New Brunswick Bar in 1895.

Mr. Copp entered public life in 1901, at the age of 31, when elected to the Legislature as a member for Westmorland. He held that seat continuously until 1912 and was Liberal organizer for the Province from 1904 to 1908.

First elected to the Commons in 1915, he was re-elected in 1917 and 1921 as representative for Westmorland. Re-election by acclamation followed his appointment as Secretary of State.

He was elected Mayor of Sackville by acclamation in 1931. In 1903 he married Elizabeth M. Bell, daughter of William H. and Annie (Grant) Bell, of Newcastle. There were no children.

Senator Copp is survived by his widow and two sisters, Mrs. W. E. Lord, Red Deer, Alta., Mrs. F. N. Duchemin, Moncton, N. B.

The body will be taken to Sackville tomorrow afternoon and burial will be made there. Funeral plans were incomplete tonight.

New Nfld. Road Is No Route for Chicken-hearted

By JOE MacSWEENEY
GRAND FALLS, Nfld., Dec. 5 (CP) — A road has been opened "over the roof" of Newfoundland but as yet it is no route for the chicken-hearted motorist.

A sedan and a truck made the 360-mile return trip from here to the west coast town of Corner Brook during the week-end under hazardous conditions.

The vehicles charged their way through thousands of tons of mud over 50 miles of the route which is newly constructed.

per Mills Ltd., and the Newfoundland Government.

The trip went off without serious mishap although vehicles and passengers showed signs of wear and tear. Mud guards and underparts of both vehicles were badly battered. At one point the truck dropped about three feet into a mud hole and defied all efforts at being dislodged. A bull dozer was obtained from a nearby construction gang to heave it out, an operation that was watched with obvious disapproval by a gigantic bull moose.

The area is a paradise for fishermen and hunters. The road will open to easy access thousands of square miles of timber and agricultural land, some of which probably has never been adequately explored.

16 MORE SHOPPING DAYS

WHEN POLITICIANS BURY THE HATCHET THEY DIG UP THE AXE!

MINIMUM and maximum. Victoria 39 50; Edmonton 11 26; Regina 29; Winnipeg 10 18; Toronto 30 35; Ottawa 26 34; Montreal 30 37; Quebec 20 30; Saint John 22 33; Moncton 20 31; Halifax 24 31; Charlottetown 24 33; Sydney 28 34; Yarmouth 22 42; St. John's 30 31.

HALIFAX, Dec. 5 (CP) — Official inland forecasts issued tonight by the Dominion Public Weather Office at Halifax:

Synopsis: A new disturbance formed Monday afternoon just east of Cape Cod. Late Monday evening it was centred about 150 miles south of Liverpool, N.S. The disturbance continued to intensify during the night. It is expected to reach Newfoundland Tuesday morning and be east of Belle Isle Tuesday evening.

There is an area of rain and snow covering most of the Maritimes and Eastern Quebec mostly due to this new disturbance and partly due to an old disturbance centred in northwest Quebec. On Tuesday in the wake of the new disturbance, skies are expected to be variable over the district with snowflurries in some localities.

Regional forecasts, valid until midnight Tuesday: Prince Edward Island—Variable cloudiness Tuesday with little change in temperature. East winds 25 shifting to northwest 20. Low early Tuesday morning at Charlottetown 33 and high in the afternoon 35.

High tide today at 11:57 A. M. and at 10:42 P. M. Sur rises at 7:37 A. M. and sets at 4:32 P. M.

BORDEN - TORMENTINE FERRY WEEK DAYS
Lv. Borden Lv. Cape Tormentine
9:10 A.M. 10:55 A.M.
1:00 P.M. 2:40 P.M.
4:30 P.M. 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAYS
Lv. Borden Lv. Cape Tormentine
9:10 A.M. 10:55 A.M.
6:45 P.M. 8:00 P.M.

Coming Events

"Mail your Films to Garnham Photo Studio, Charlottetown.

"Aton Hall, December 22nd, New Dominion Christmas Concert.

"Glenshale School concert, Tuesday Hall, December 22.

"New Argyle Christmas Concert, December 23rd.

"King's County Plowing Match will be held at Dundas, Wednesday, September 27th, 1950.

"Now buying Timothy Seed, Cleaned or Uncleaned, McGugan & Boyle.

"Dance in Long Creek Hall, Wednesday, December 7th. Sale of lunches.

"See "Sleep My Love" at MacDonald Bros. Theatre, tonight. Plus Social.

"Hot chicken supper in Pownall Hall, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 5-9 p.m. Proceeds in aid of hall.

Only Real Danger

Only real danger of potato canker coming into Prince Edward Island, Mr. Keenan said, was if a member of the crew of a ship happened to see some attractive looking potatoes in Newfoundland and brought them along for his family or friends to try. Plant disease had been introduced in a number of countries through this sort of thing, he said.

As far as canker, Dominion or Newfoundland authorities are aware, there has been no outbreak of black wart or potato canker on the west coast of Newfoundland. Incidence of the disease has been confined to the south-east section of that province, notably the Avalon peninsula.

Officers of both departments plan to make further surveys to determine where the disease occurs there and how best to control it.

Purpose of public announcement of the existence of potato canker in Newfoundland, Mr. Keenan said, was to make the public conscious of the very serious effect this disease would have should it infiltrate into Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Once the danger is realized, he feels, all persons concerned will be doubly careful.

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Convicted before Mr. Justice Alfred Savard and a jury, he was sentenced to one month in jail. His appeal to the Court of King's Bench was rejected by a 3-2 decision, with Chief Justice Severin dissenting. The appeal was carried to Ottawa.

Chief Justice Thibodeau Rinfret, Mr. Justice P. Kerwin and Mr. Justice Robert Taschereau agreed with the dissenting judges of the Court of King's Bench that the issue was not put accurately to the jury in the original trial and that the judge's charge to the jury was incomplete and erroneous in some respects. The Chief Justice felt that Chief Justice Letourneau "very properly avoided discussing the circumstances of the trial."

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Survivors include a son, Clarence, of Halifax.

Britain Stops Work On One Of Three Atomic Piles

LONDON, Dec. 5 (AP) — Britain stopped work today on a large atom pile because of the possibility of "developments in the near future."

Some sources speculated that Britain might be counting on a greater exchange of atomic information with the United States.

Britain's atomic work might be altered if scientists here were given information on some of the American methods.

The Ministry of Supply, in charge of atomic research, said work was being stopped on the largest of three piles under construction at its huge plutonium plant at Sellafield.

A spokesman said the halt was called "after a review of the program and in the light of possible developments in the near future."

The announcement came as Britain's atomic chief, Sir John Cockcroft, returned to London by air from a visit to United States and Canadian atomic experts.

Shirley Temple Tells Story In Divorce Court

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5 (AP) — Shirley Temple won a divorce today, testifying that her husband, actor John Agar, drank to excess, romanced with other women and even drove her to thinking of suicide.

Composed but tearful, the 21-year-old actress, who enchanted millions as a child star, told the court:

"About five months after we were married he began not coming home nights for dinner. First it was 8 o'clock, then 10 o'clock and finally 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning."

"What was his condition when he did come home?" asked her counsel.

"Very often intoxicated," she replied. "When I was about two months pregnant he came home about 4 a.m. with lipstick all over his face. He was very intoxicated."

"Did his conduct become worse?" "When I was about five months

Pepper Reported Scarce In Britain

LONDON, Dec. 5 (CP) — Pepper is so short in Britain that restaurants are being asked to go easy on it. A leading London pepper broker said one of the reasons for the scarcity is that political disorders in the Netherlands and East Indies and Indonesia have prevented replanting of crops.

The Ministry of Food disclosed recently that the pre-war price of £50 (\$165) to £70 a ton reached £300 in 1948 and since then has leaped to more than £1,000.

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