

MAXIMS
OF A
MERE MAN

A man for a long time may be
thought exceeding wise, but only
for taking pains and telling lies.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GULF

The People's Paper Read by Everybody

MAXIMS
OF A
MERE MAN

Care draws on care, woe com-
forts woe again; sorrow breeds sor-
row, one grief brings forth twin.

The Guardian, Three Cents
Morning Daily Founded 1887.

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RAILWAYS ASK FOR EARLY 20 PER CENT RATES BOOST

BELIEVE FOREIGN POWERS CRACKED SECRET U. S. CODE

Want Increase Before Rates Inquiry Held

Says Canada's Farmers Faced With Prospect Of Lower Price Schedule

Reports Strength Of British Armed Forces

LONDON, Dec. 7 (CP)—Defense Minister A. V. Alexander said today in the House of Commons the total estimated strength of the armed forces Jan. 1 will be 810,500.

This represents a reduction of 10,000 in the forces' size during the year.

Alexander gave the forces strength next Jan. 1 as follows:

Navy—Regulars 118,000, national servicemen called up under conscription legislation 99,000, women 7,500—Total 144,500.

Army—Regulars 180,000, national servicemen 237,000, women 12,000—Total 429,000.

R.A.F.—Regulars 112,000, national servicemen 111,000, women 14,000—Total 237,000.

SINGER LIKED FISHING

DETROIT, Dec. 7 (AP)—Marcus Kellerman, 68, opera singer and symphony concert soloist for many years, died Monday night. While on tour for many years, Kellerman always carried a fishing kit to indulge in one of his favorite hobbies.

Coming Events

- *Christmas Concert in Riverview, December 22nd.
- *Regular Dance, Coles' Work-Wop, New London, Friday night.
- *Christmas Concert in South Meville School, December 23rd.
- *Stanford School Christmas Concert, December 21st.
- *Dance in Pownal Garage Hall, November 9th, Millview Orchestra.
- *Dance Bright Spot tonight, 9 to 12:30.
- *Christmas Concert, Crapaud Hall, Thursday, Dec. 23rd.
- *Our Store will be closed all day December 8th. Peters & Gallant Limited.
- *Dance, Mt. Stewart, every Thursday. Eastern Rhythm Boys' Orchestra.
- *For your dancing pleasure come to the Islanders Country Club Thursday.
- *This store will be closed all day Wednesday, Dec. 8th. J. F. Morris, Kinkora.
- *Come to Christmas Concert in Wheatley River Hall, December 21st.
- *Reserve Wednesday, Dec. 22, for Christmas concert Pleasant Grove Hall.
- *Cornwall Hall, Christmas 20th. Meadowbank School Christmas Concert.
- *Commencing on the 15th of this month, Milk will be 14 cents a quart. J. A. Sanders, Murray River.
- *Loading dressed poultry for Canada Packers Friday afternoon, Dec. 10, 2 to 5. H. S. MacLeod & Sons, Vernon River.
- *Any district interested in starting a hockey league come to Long River Hall, Wednesday, December 8.
- *Comrades' the monthly meeting, Kingston Branch, Canadian Legion, Kingston Hall, December 8th at 8:30 P.M.
- *Will buy 2000 good second hand bags free from Hales, J. A. Gilles, Livestock Feed Agency, 58 Fitzroy Street.
- *Unloading Thursday, Friday and Saturday mixed car, Shur-Gain feeds, Mackie and Co., Grafton Street (Canada Packers Siding). Book now. Grains rising in price. Call 441.
- *Will be loading hogs at the following points each Thursday: Elmer Wigmore, Bradalbane, until 11:30 a. m.; Borden Bagnall, Hunter River, until noon; Summerside until 1:30 p. m.; and Kensington until 3 p. m. MacEwen and Casey.

By GEORGE KITCHEN
OTTAWA, Dec. 7 (CP)—Dean A. M. Shaw, chairman of the Dominion-Provincial agricultural conference, said today Canadian farmers must realize that the Dominion is out of the war period and that they may have to accept lower prices for their surplus.

Summing up discussion at today's second session of the three-day conference, he said delegates seemed to be agreed that agriculture was facing an immediate future which may bring "very different" conditions.

There was a feeling of "insecurity" and a "vagueness about the long view."

"We must realize that we are out of the war period. We have an agriculture industry that has become highly organized and our farmers are in a sounder position than they have been in the memory of many of us here."

Agriculture was faced with the prospect of lower prices and might have to accept them. "Canada was troubled about some things that were happening in the United States. One problem was the fact European Recovery Plan funds could not be used to buy farm products which were surplus in the U. S. This called for action between the Canadian and American governments."

Dealing with the various products, Dr. Shaw said there may be a considerable increase in summer fallow on the Prairie Provinces and little increase in wheat acreage.

At the same time, he cautioned farmers against producing a fat hog in an attempt to compete in the U. S. market. The Americans now were developing a lean hog along Canadian lines and this preference for lean may be an advantage to Canadians.

The delegates, representing 1,200 farmers and provincial organizations, and Provincial De-

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Rush River Defence Lines

(By Seymour Topping)

NANKING, Dec. 7 (AP)—A swift Communist manoeuvre has trapped the 250,000-man garrison from Suchow, probably beyond any hope of escape or help, government sources admitted today.

With the best of the Government's troops in all East China thus caught in a net, defenses were rushed along the Hwai and Yangtze Rivers. These are the last lines of defense before the capital.

Col. Chiang Wei-Kuo, adopted son of President Chiang Kai-Shek, is believed among those trapped. His tank column helped to break the first Red drive on Suchow, 211 miles northwest of Nanking.

Meanwhile, the Communists appear to have launched a drive in North China against the Peiping-Tientsin area.

Government sources said the Suchow garrison, which is trying to fight south and rejoin the defenders of Nanking, now is compressed in a pocket eight miles long and five miles in depth about 50 miles southwest of Suchow.

This would be about 90 miles from the closest government forces not already encircled—the 80,000 men on the Hwei River line.

Gen. Chen Yi, whose Communist armies of East China had smashed the Hwei River line some 100 miles from Nanking, was credited with welding a trap of steel for the Suchow garrison.

When the order came through for the garrison to abandon Suchow and fight south, General Chen left off his attacks along the Hwei and rushed his main force northwestward.

They intercepted the garrison, which had been heading toward Suhsien, 50 miles south of Suchow. The garrison had been ordered to liberate 100,000 men of the government's 12th Army Group encircled in the Suhsien area.

The garrison then swung westward. The Communist radio boasted the garrison "stampeded" when it came under Red attack and then was caught in "an air tight encirclement."

Will Make Further Study Of Community Chest Plan

The meeting, held last evening in the Charlottetown Hotel under the auspices of the Charlottetown Board of Trade, to discuss the advisability of forming a Community Chest organization in the City, decided to have the Charlottetown Board of Trade investigate the matter further before advocating the formation of such an organization.

The resolution calling for further study of the project was moved by Dr. P. A. Creelman and seconded by Mr. Orrin Simmonds.

The chief speaker at the meeting was Mrs. Gwladys M. Kennedy, executive secretary of the Community Chest, Halifax, N. S., who gave an outline of the manner in which the organization functioned there.

Mrs. Kennedy said the smaller charitable organizations had benefited more by a community drive for funds than when they "had been on their own." Very often under the former method of soliciting funds in Halifax, the larger organizations had received more financial support from the public than many of the smaller ones which were doing an indispensable charitable work in the City. The Community Chest had equalized such a state of affairs so that, on the whole, more satisfaction was given by the present method of collecting funds.

Growth In Halifax

Replying to a question from Col. G. E. Pull, Mrs. Kennedy said that when the Community Chest first began its work in Halifax, 24 years ago, it only had 10 agencies and 2,400 subscribers. Now, it has 17 agencies and 17,000 subscribers. Twenty-four years ago, its objective was \$34,000, now it is \$84,500.

Among those who spoke in favor of forming a Community Chest in Charlottetown were, Dr. P. A. Creelman, Mr. A. Walden Gaudet, Mr. D. L. Mathieson, M.L.A., Mrs. H. S. Henderson of the Protestant Orphanage, Mrs. Gordon Leitch, Mrs. Arthur Roper, Mr. F. W. Hyndman, Major T. E. MacNutt, and Mr. J. O. Hyndman.

Rev. Dr. P. McMahon, rector of St. Dunstan's Basilica, said he was speaking officially for his Church in Charlottetown when he stated he would support the formation of such an organization.

Dr. McMahon said he was in favour of the formation of such an organization for it would cut down a lot of work on the part of those who were called upon several times a year to be members of drives for the Salvation Army, the Y.M.C.A., the Red Cross, and many other organizations.

Major E. Hutchinson, Salvation Army, said his organization could not join the Community Chest because the amount of funds it needed were much greater than those it would get as a member of the Chest. He was not against the formation of such an organization in Charlottetown. There was no doubt it would serve a useful purpose but his organization could not consider coming in to it. The Army had affiliated for a time with the Community Chest in Saint John, N. B., and had suffered financially for so doing.

Mr. H. R. Rogers said the Red

Multiple Demands

Major T. E. Rogers said the public was becoming "fed up" on the multiplicity of demands on their pocket books. He was strongly in favour of the formation of such an organization for it would cut down a lot of work on the part of those who were called upon several times a year to be members of drives for the Salvation Army, the Y.M.C.A., the Red Cross, and many other organizations.

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Britain Seeks Grain From Soviet Union

LONDON, Dec. 7 (Reuters)—Britain is asking Russia for 2,000,000 tons of grain in the trade negotiations between British and Soviet government representatives in London.

A large part of this tonnage would be coarse grain, but a proportion, it was expected, would be wheat. Russia supplied Britain with 750,000 tons of coarse grain under the previous Anglo-Soviet commercial agreement signed last December.

Information Contained In Stolen Papers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 (AP)—A senior State Department official expressed belief tonight that foreign nations cracked a "top secret" pre-war United States Government code with the aid of papers sneaked out of the State Department 10 years ago.

A quest for new suspects was launched by the House un-American activities committee after several present and former officials of the Department testified as to the delicate nature of the "pumpkin papers."

The committee quoted John E. Peurifoy, assistant Secretary of State, as saying:

"What I regard as most serious about this whole thing, is the fact that these documents were taken out of the State Department in 1937 or '38, and to me that means that our codes were being read by foreign nations during the whole period."

Peurifoy's estimate of the importance of the documents was shared by former Undersecretary Sumner Welles, who said the papers could have been used to break the code used by the State Department.

Committee members speculated immediately that the code may have fallen into the hands of the Russians, Germans and Japanese.

Women's Organizations Present Views Before Prices Commission

Island Spuds Have Shed Space Filled, Halifax Reports

OTTAWA, Dec. 7 (CP)—Two major women's organizations today demanded the production of the Island's main farm crop, potatoes, be shared by 12 national organizations. The commission began hearing the briefs today and will continue listening and questioning until public sessions finish Dec. 16.

"If we are entering a period of free enterprise, we feel that competition by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers," said the brief presented jointly by the National Council of Women and the Canadian Association of Consumers.

The brief was presented by Mrs. F. E. Wright of the Consumers Association, and Mrs. R. J. Marshall, of the Council. Both are the presidents of their organization.

The co-operatives brief was presented jointly by the Co-operative Union of Canada and Le Conseil Canadien de la Co-operation. It was read in French by Rene Pare, president of the Quebec organization and supported by Ralph S. Staples, president of the Co-operative Union.

The co-operative concern is established with an eye to reduction of the cost-of-living to a minimum and to the maintenance of "price stability," they said.

Questions Co-Operatives

In questioning the co-operatives representatives, H. A. Dyde, commission counsel, cited the appearance before the earlier parliamentary committee on prices of representatives of the Saskatchewan Dairy Products Co-operative. They had told of holding butter from the market to "try to work up the price." Mr. Dyde wanted to know if this was a typical co-operative method.

Mr. Staples countered by stating that it was mainly through the efforts of the whole pools that Canadian farmers had been induced to accept the lower price for wheat involved in the contract with Britain.

In the brief presented for their organizations, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Marshall stated that consumers were particularly concerned with two trade practices which they considered interfered with free competition—establishment of retail sales prices by manufacturers and maintenance of fixed percentage margins of profit by retailers as prices rise.

"The Canadian Association of Consumers is concerned about trade practices which prevent the free

Navigation Season Prolonged At Montreal

MONTREAL, Dec. 7 (CP)—The navigation season in this port was prolonged for another week as the Portuguese vessel Corales, arrived last night.

The ship, small as ocean ships go, will sail Thursday with 800 tons of flax in her hold for Lisbon.

Meanwhile, lighted navigation aids are still in place between Montreal and Sorel, Que., although those near Sorel have been replaced with winter buoys.

Wartime Harbor Defence Expert Back At Old Job

OTTAWA, Dec. 7 (CP)—The Navy announced today its top wartime expert on harbor defences is back on active service but a spokesman said no exaggerated significance should be attached to the appointment.

Return of Cmdr. J. P. Singleton, 45, of Amherstburg, Ont., and Vancouver as director of seaward defences at naval headquarters was looked on as one fraction of the gradual building up of the regular forces which Canada tore down at the end of the war.

There is as yet no information as to whether the services by wartime defences could be termed a trend to the services by wartime officers. A group of former R.C.A.F. officers, mostly pilots, have returned to uniform recently with the rank of flying officer and short-service five-year commissions. Their numbers, however, were small.

A naval source said the appointment of Cmdr. Singleton, who retired just a little more than a year ago, does not indicate anything like a rush job to get harbor defences improved. He simply happened to be more of an expert in that field than anyone else available and such a man was needed in the normal course of things.

A statement said:

"The new post will be concerned mainly with the defence of seaports against both surface craft and submarines, anti-submarine and anti-torpedo nets, minefields, boom defences and other devices for the detection and destruction of enemy submarines or surface craft are under Cmdr. Singleton's direction."

A native of Vancouver, Commander Singleton joined the naval reserve in August, 1940. He was appointed for a short time to H.M.C.S. Stadacona, the east coast training establishment at Halifax, and then transferred to naval headquarters, Ottawa, where he became director of harbor defences. He went on the retired list Sept. 30, 1947.

THINK WAR INEVITABLE

WIESBADEN, Germany, Dec. 7.—Two Russian air force officers who fled the Soviet Union said today they believed war between Russia and the United States is inevitable.

The fliers landed in Australia and came here as "guests" of United States air force headquarters in Europe. They said the Red air force was wracked with disaffection and could not win against the United States. They said 50 per cent of the Russian people had turned to the Communist regime.

Canada's Steel Mills Set All-time Record

OTTAWA, Dec. 7 (CP)—Canada will set an all-time record this year in the production of steel, the backbone of industrial prosperity, Federal experts said today.

Affecting everything from washing machines to new hydro developments, a year's output of 3,100,000 net tons of ingot steel looks like a "safe" estimate, they said. There is an outside — and improbable — chance the total might come close to 3,200,000 tons.

With industries steadily clamoring for more steel to put into new buildings, new generators and new knives and forks, Canada last year produced 2,854,000 tons of ingots — the great, unfinished lumps in which steel comes from the basic plants.

Before the war 1,500,000 net tons was a good year for the steel industry and in 1933 the total was below 500,000 tons.

Conversion of ingot steel into the finished shapes in which industry uses it — rods, sheets, structural angles — involves a loss of about 25 per cent. In addition to its own production, Canada will have imported about 600,000 tons of finished rolling mill products from the United States by the end of the year. This represents a decline of about 40,000 tons from 1947.

With steel the basic factor in a modern industrial economy, government experts are unable to present as encouraging a picture for 1948 as for this, when there is already a serious shortage.

Roughly speaking, they said, the country will have somewhat less steel than this year and about as much as there was in 1947.

Heavy defence requirements in the next year would cut seriously into the quantity of steel plants now going to producers of practical products and capital equipment. The entire steel shortage since they are never used for non-essential purposes — such as sheet steel — and are already scarce.

About 70 per cent of the country's monthly production of 21,000 tons of steel plates are allocated by the Federal steel controller for purposes which will have capital value.

Federal officials believe would continue even with a defence program underway. The remaining 30 per cent goes to essential users too, but without government allocation.

Plea For One More Look Led To Rescue Of 33 Men

HONOLULU, Dec. 7 (AP)—Thirty-three survivors of a downed United States Air Force transport plane owe their rescue to a search plane navigator who insisted on just one more look before giving up the hunt.

Exhausted by 40 hours in the water, the 33 were picked up last night from two life rafts in the tossing Pacific 1,200 miles southwest of Honolulu. Four others were lost.

Lt. Cmdr. Steve Kona, pilot of a navy Privateer search plane which spotted them, said he was preparing to return to base at Johnston Island when he spoke to Ensign L. R. Johnson.

"Johnny said 'let's just try one more — it will only take eight minutes,'" Kona related. "Two minutes before the end of that time my plane captain sighted a green dye marker directly beneath the plane."

"We went down to take a look. They were hanging on the gunwales, half inside and half outside."

Movie-Theatre Usher Charged With Murder

MONTREAL, Dec. 7 (CP)—Roger Trudel, 33-year-old movie-theatre usher, today was formally charged with the assault-murder of Mrs. Angelina Bessette who died a week ago from a beating administered by the Jacques Cartier Bridge.

Preliminary hearing was fixed for Dec. 14.

Without leaving their seats, a coroner's jury earlier found Trudel criminally responsible for the death of the 48-year-old movie-theatre usher. They reached their decision after hearing the story of Trudel's pale-faced, red-eyed paramour.

Mrs. Antonio Fortier of nearby St. Jerome testified she had been with him in Montreal both before and after the slaying. On the night of the assault, Trudel had told her she had to meet Mrs. Bessette "to look after her money."

Mrs. Fortier said he returned to their room the next morning with blood on his coat and trousers, and that she had disposed of the gar-

Britain Seeks Grain From Soviet Union

LONDON, Dec. 7 (Reuters)—Britain is asking Russia for 2,000,000 tons of grain in the trade negotiations between British and Soviet government representatives in London.

A large part of this tonnage would be coarse grain, but a proportion, it was expected, would be wheat. Russia supplied Britain with 750,000 tons of coarse grain under the previous Anglo-Soviet commercial agreement signed last December.

By John LeBlanc
OTTAWA, Dec. 7 (CP)—The railways served notice on the Board of Transport Commissioners today that they want an early 20-per-cent increase in freight rates instead of waiting for that issue for the general rate inquiry.

This move came to the Board of Transport Commissioners as it heard that British Columbia's application for removal of the "mountain differential" on freight rates might take its factoring reaching all far across the country as the Maritimes.

The day brought these developments:

1. The railways, which previously have asked for a 13-per-cent interim rate increase to be followed at some future date by a solid 20-per-cent jump, asked now that the 20-per-cent case be decided immediately after hearing of the 13-per-cent issue. Earlier, the railways had agreed to let the question of the larger boost be included in the board's general rate inquiry.
2. A suggestion from British Columbia counsel that the board might use Maritime operating costs as the basis for lowering British Columbia rates.
3. A series of jousts between counsel over the way evidence is being presented, with B. C. lawyers gaining from the board's concession that they are entitled to detailed information concerning railway operations in other sections of Canada.
4. Evidence from a railway witness that the C.P.R.'s operating costs in the Pacific region are more than 35 per cent higher than on the Prairies.

(Continued on Page 5 Col. 5)

15 MORE SHOPPING DAYS

AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY!
UNLESS YOU GET THE SEEDS IN YOUR APPENDIX!



MINIMUM and maximum temperatures:

Vancouver	36, 45
Edmonton	2, 31
Winnipeg	18, 21
Toronto	12, 38
Quebec	34, 46
Montreal	37, 45
Ottawa	35, 41
Saint John	38, —
Moncton	32, 42
Halifax	42, 49
Charlottetown	38, 50
Sydney	40, 43
Yarmouth	40, 47

HALIFAX, Dec. 7 (CP)—Official inland forecasts issued by the Dominion Public Weather Office and valid until midnight Wednesday:

Snowy, Tuesday evening the weather was clear over most of the Maritimes. The storm that had caused rain and gales during the early morning was centered on the Labrador coast and continuing to move away from the district. Winds were still strong in some regions in the evening but in the western sections they had become light.

In the northern regions the weather had been cloudy all day and there were a few snowflurries over the mountains. The clouds began to break up and these sections in the evening but another band of snowflurries is likely to spread into the region on Wednesday.

Late Tuesday evening this high cloud began to appear over the southwestern Maritimes. This is probably the advance indication of a new disturbance developing in the southeast United States. Rain is forecast to reach the south shore region of Nova Scotia Wednesday afternoon and elsewhere the weather is expected to remain fine.

Regional forecasts:—

Prince Edward Island: Clear and continuing mild. West winds 15. Low and high Wednesday at Charlottetown 33 and 45.

High tide this afternoon at 2:04 and tomorrow morning at 4:40.

Sun sets this evening at 4:19 and rises tomorrow morning at 7:25.

Summerside tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.

Daily Except Sunday
CAR FRISKY "ABEGWEIT"
Leaves Toronto, 9:10 A.M. 1 P.M.
Leaves Borden 10:35 A.M.
2:40 P.M., 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY
Leaves Borden 6:45 P.M.
Leaves Tormentine 8 P.M.