

No. 1
Charlottetown
Branch
Canadian Legion
B. E. S. L.

Christmas Tree

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NOTICE OF RETRACTION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Certain statements made to me reflecting on the character of Lloyd Vessey and Mary Vessey, York, P. E. I., and repeated by me were later, upon investigation, found to be without foundation and I retract same.

(Sgd.)
J. SPURGEON JENKINS.

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In Year Of Peace Canadian Defence Takes New Shape

By DOUGLAS HOW (Canadian Press Staff Writer)
OTTAWA, Dec. 20 — (CP) — In many ways, 1949 was the most important peacetime year Canadian defence has known. The defence budget jumped more than 50 per cent to \$383,000,000 — a record for a year of peace. The forces were wedded to the country's first formal military alliance in the Atlantic Pact. The air force stepped out as the No. 1 service. The regular forces, with past recruiting difficulties over, netted some 8,000 new men and moved towards a total standing strength of 50,000. They were some 3,000 to 4,000 men short at year's end. Construction of barracks, homes and installations, such as hangars, cost some \$100,000,000. Orders for new combat planes and naval craft and for repairs and modernization of those now in use probably exceeded that total. The R. C. A. F. established its first regular fighter squadron and an Air Defence Group set up headquarters in Montreal to direct defence preparations. A radar early-warning system to protect vital approaches got under way. Addition of Newfoundland to Confederation added a great defence bastion to the nation. Canada made no effort to disturb U.S. military rule at three bases on the island but pressed for modification of certain civilian privileges given under a 99-year lease.

Joint Defence Link

The forces united to establish a joint communications system that linked through relay centres not only all military bases in Canada but defence headquarters in such capitals as Washington and London. The framework of ready defence was taking shape in the radar system, the communications, regular and reserve fighter squadrons, the continued training of elements of the army's airborne brigade, the navy's anti-submarine preparations. But 1949 also had its frustrations and its moments of doubt. The government kept hammering at the U.S. for an arms-exchange bargain, without making any noticeable headway. It was hoped Canada could make and sell to the United States equipment usable by services of both countries as part of a projected over-all arms unification program.

A three-man commission found a widespread feeling that the navy is stretched too far and too thin, that there is a broad lack of experience among its officers and an artificial distance between officers and men.

In the Commons, Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V. R. Pearkes, V. C. (PC — Nanaimo) made the first major assault on defence policy and advocated that \$3 be spent on the R. C. A. F. for every dollar spent on the army. Press reports on Exercise Eagle, a week-end air-land exercise along the Alaska Highway, were generally critical of equipment used. Army reserve units were generally well below strength and recruiting aimed at another 10,000 men to add to the 39,000 now in. Reserve units of the other forces were below strength, too, but officials said new recruits couldn't be absorbed any faster. The navy's 18,000-ton aircraft carrier Magnificent went aground and was laid up for months in drydock. But that piece of bad news was counteracted by the feat of the destroyer Haida in rescuing 18 U.S. airmen off Bermuda in winter seas.

Only Comes Slowly
And among these highs and lows many things proceeded quietly. The administrative headaches rooted in the drive to unify the defence department were slowly eased by young, able C. M. Brig. C. M. Drury, new deputy minister. The experimental stations at Suffield, Alta., and Churchill, Man., went ahead steadily with bacterial, chemical and Arctic warfare tests. The navy opened a recruit-training centre near Digby, N.S., exercised in anti-submarine warfare with U.S. and U.K. fleets, handed out \$10,000,000 in orders for new ships. The army moved ahead with training in a network of schools, tested its first airborne battalion and found it good, kept building towards an airborne brigade. The R. C. A. F. launched a mar-

Central Guardian

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

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BELLS IN WINTER IN THE GARDEN OF LUFF

'Tis winter on the Isle today. The snow flies o'er the hills Hiding all the red-brown clay And every nook and corner fills. Soon we'll hear old Santa call Merry Christmas to everyone Let all be glad and gay. Merry Christmas to each and all. Methinks I hear the bells ringing In St. Dunstan's far away. The sacred message they are bringing Of the coming Holy Day.

Once we heard the sleigh bells ringing, (Before the autos came to stay) Sweetest music somehow bringing On the Blessed Christmas Day.

When the ice was glub and strong Upon the river Montague. The happy young folk there would throng And their fancy skating do.

In summer autos have the sway Upon the lovely thoroughfare. But give me horse and jaunting sleigh. With sound of bells on winter air. —Lena Vessey. Portland, Maine, formerly of Montague.

ORWELL W. I.

The annual meeting of the Orwell Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Percy McLeod, with an attendance of seven members. Roll call was answered by paying the annual fee. Minutes of the last regular and annual meetings were read and approved. The financial report was read by the secretary, showing that \$676.61 was made during the year, and that \$331.41 was paid out. An address was read by the president, thanking the members for their co-operation during her two years in office. An election of officers was as follows: — president — Mrs. Leo McDonald, vice-president — Mrs. N. H. McLeod, secretary — Mrs. Percy McLeod, directors — Mrs. Jas. Hughes, Mrs. Owen McKenna and Mrs. N. H. McLeod, auditors — Mrs. John Naddy, Mrs. D. McDonald. Meeting closed and lunch was served by the hostess.

Itme squadron in Nova Scotia, mapped tens of thousands of square miles in the north, carried out regular transport flights along thousands of miles of regular routes. U.S. Defence Secretary Louis Johnson came and went as the most important of numerous important visitors. In the headlines temporarily were the Haida's rescue, the R. C. A. F.'s mercy flights and rescue of five air-crashed U.S. and British servicemen in a northern wilderness, the loss of 29 lives in the crash of an air force plane in Manitoba.

The Morning Is Near Us

By Susan Gaspell

Warren said Lydia had a right to it if she wanted to; she did want to and was setting out with a great deal of spirit.

"But why does she want to live there?"

"You've got me there. I wouldn't want to. But the funny thing is, Lydia seems to have more affection for the past than any of us." "I don't see why anyone should have affection for it."

"Well, I do," he said. She regarded him anxiously. "Warren, you've changed. You seem to have forgotten all the talk."

"I've been tied up in that talk long enough."

But Ivy did not respond to this emancipation. "If you have no regard for your own family," she said stiffly, "you might consider your sister herself. I mean the money. It isn't practical. Lydia doesn't know what it will cost and you should tell her. Your Aunt Jennifer wasn't rich."

"Now there we needn't worry," and you should tell her. Your Aunt Jennifer, Lydia has another legacy."

"Who from?" "Someone she met in traveling."

"Well that's very strange." "She evidently made warm friends. You'll understand better when you see her. She was left a hundred thousand dollars by someone she met in her travels."

"Why I never heard of such a thing! It doesn't seem right!" "It's a very nice sum of money — wish I'd traveled more myself. Now, Ivy, will you go out there in the morning — with two stout cleaning women — mops, pails, soap — you know the things one cleans with, so Lydia can sleep in the house? Tonight she's sleeping out in the yard."

"Out in the yard?" "She says she used to. But it may rain any time."

Ivy said again that Lydia was crazy; all the Chippmans were crazy; that you couldn't get cleaning women, either stout or thin, and she did not run with mops and pails. Hard enough to get people to work in her own house! Elfreda was having a bridge luncheon the next day and for her part she never wanted to set foot in that house again!

Warren said he was sleepy. Ivy would be all right on her own and had had her say. Curiosity would get her there, if nothing else. He didn't go right to sleep; he was wondering what Lydia was thinking about. Sure enough, first thing next morning he heard Ivy telephoning for cleaning women. She had an injured manner at breakfast, but asked if the radiator in her car had been fixed; she had no desire to be stalled on a country road with mops and pails.

He didn't go out that day, for if it were left to Ivy she might think it was her doings and feel better about it. And he had faith in Lydia. Maybe Lydia would get Ivy, so that she could get almost anyone.

Ivy came back in the evening declaring she was dead tired and adding, in a superior way: "You'd be surprised at all we accomplished."

"How did you like Lydia?" he asked.

She sat down, saying she ached in every bone. Never in her whole life had she done so much work. "Lydia? Well, the trouble is you can't help but like Lydia."

"Yes," he agreed, "that is the trouble."

"And it might not be so bad if it weren't for those children. They will be the talk of the town. Why, Warren, the little girl is Greek, and the boy is half Indian. And she calls him Chippman!"

"Did you and Lydia talk about things?"

"No, we talked about the house — getting it cleaned — though what's the good cleaning it when workmen will have to tear it all up? You touch the plaster and it comes off. Really, I felt sorry for Lydia, though she's so impractical. I've never in my life seen a more impractical woman."

When it became known Lydia Chippman was actually going to stay, that Warren was engaging workmen to restore the place, feeling was divided between curiosity about Lydia and wondering what was going to become of the dead of the next twenty years.

The workmen who returned to town at night held out little hope of her becoming discouraged and giving it up. She was spending a good deal of money, they said; certainly didn't look as though she had any idea of having the place torn down.

One evening the men had a good story to tell, for a donkey had arrived, his name was Pancho Villa, and the children rode him all round the edge of the cemetery. One of the men took his little boy out to play with the Mexican and the donkey; later the plasterer did this too, and the children picked him together and all rode this Pancho Villa.

Miss Chippman was very nice to work for. She made coffee every noon and often added to their lunch with things she had baked herself. She was a darn good cook. The men worked out at the old Chippman place became less concerned with the dead of the next twenty years.

In those first days Lydia thought less about the dead of her own family than she would have expected herself to do. She worked all day and went to bed so tired she slept. "Lena," she would say to thoughts that came. First she must get home ready to live in, that and the children took all her time — there wasn't even much time to consider the strangeness of being there.

To be continued

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UNION ROAD W. I.
The monthly meeting of the Union Road W. M. S. met Dec. 8, 1949 at the home of Mrs. Harold Yeo, the theme of the meeting being "Our Faith in Jesus Christ". The programme in the Missionary Monthly was followed under the candles. During the programme the following were the hymns sung, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Silent Night". Roll call was responded to by 11 members and two visitors. Minutes were read and adopted. "Temperance Reading" by Mrs. Lamont. Following is the election of officers for 1950: President, Mrs. Harry Newman; vice president, Mrs. Everett Lamont; treasurer, Miss Tillie Prowse; assistant treasurer, Miss Mary Gill; recording secretary, Mrs. Richard Holmes; assistant recording secretary, Mrs. Keith Bryenton; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Earle Livingstone; Christian stewardship, Mrs. Maund; Temperance secretary, Mrs. Mallett; organist, Mrs. Ravenhill; assistant organist, Mrs. Sterling Yeo; Baby Band president, Mrs. Everett Gray; Missionary Band president, Miss Norma Yeo; leader, Master Dean Ravenhill; secretary, Miss Mildred Hardy; treasurer, Miss Marjorie Lamont; organist, Mrs. Keith Bryenton.

home of Mrs. Harry Newman. Collection amounted to \$360. Mite boxes amounted to \$1265 with more to come in. Mary Gill paid her fees. Meeting closed by singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and Benediction. Lunch was then served by the hostess.

BURNED TO DEATH WATERLOO, Que., Dec. 20 — (CP) — Ferdinand Ladurantaye, 73, burned to death and his would-be rescuer suffered burns in a fire that destroyed a one-room shack today. Maxime Bergeron, 37, attempted to rescue the aged man before firemen arrived.

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