

BRITISH IN IMPORTANT ACTION WITH ROMMEL

Premier King Announces Liquor Regulations

Potato Prices Are Revised

New Order Provides For Graduated Scale Of Seasonal Price Increases.



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Premier W. L. Mackenzie King today, as expected, would spend the day as usual at his desk. A secretary in his office today said he has been so busy all day he has given no thought to it.

Canada Packers Appeals Case

TORONTO, Dec. 16 (CP)—President J. S. McLean of Canada Packers Ltd. said today the company had appealed convictions registered against it yesterday at Quebec on five of seven charges under Prices Board Regulations.

"Our solicitors gave notice of appeal immediately after the judgment was given," said Mr. McLean.

The company was fined \$7,000 for costs on the five charges at Quebec. The charges were that the company had sold beef at prices set by the Prices Board for grades of beef.

Coming Events

- Talkies—Souris Monday, 12-17-21. Talkies—Montague Saturday, 12-17-21. Travellers Rest School Concert Friday, December 18th, 12-17-11. Union Road School Concert December 21st, 12-17-11. Rebekah Auction and Bridge Sale with Leslie McDowell, Odeffollows Hall, Thursday, 12-17-11. Collecting noys every Friday, 5-19-20-twif. Danstafnage School Concert at Marshfield Hall, Friday, Dec. 12-14-17-21. Farmers wishing to ship produce contact McGowan and Boyd, 12-16 to 30. St. Catherine's School Concert, Wednesday night, December 23rd, 12-17-11. Christmas Concert, Rennie's School, Monday, December 21st, 12-17-21. Annual meeting Charlottetown Milk Producers and Vendors Association, Odeffollows Hall, Thursday, Dec. 17th, 8 P. M., 12-16-21. Annual meeting Kingston Farmers' Institute, Kingston Hall, Thursday, 19th 8 P. M., 12-17-11. Note change of date for Bradalbane Rural School and Institute Concert in Bradalbane Hall which will be held on the 19th. If necessary, the 21st, 12-17-11. We are buying live and dressed chickens and fowl daily, payable for market value. We also receive Turkey, Ducks and Geese. Write for prices. Island Poultry, Ltd., 12-15-11.

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (CP)—The Prices Board tonight issued an order, effective immediately, establishing new maximum wholesale and retail prices of potatoes in all parts of Canada, and providing for a graduated scale of seasonal price increases for the balance of the present crop year to compensate growers for losses from wastage and shrinkage.

The order establishes three marketing areas and fixes the maximum prices which may be charged in each for the recognized grades and kinds of potatoes generally sold. It also sets up specific ceilings to replace the former system of individual basic period ceilings.

Area No. 1 includes the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, and all that part of Ontario east of and including Fort William on the Canadian Pacific railway and Armstrong on the Canadian National Railways, with Montreal as the principal market.

Area No. 2 in the extreme western part of Ontario with Manitoba and Saskatchewan south of the 53rd parallel. The third area includes Alberta and British Columbia with Vancouver as the principal market.

In the Montreal basic market area, the maximum delivered wholesale price will be \$1.70 per 75-pound bag for Canada fancy grade. The corresponding maximum prices fixed for No. 1 grade and No. 2 grade are \$1.40 and \$1.15.

An adjustment for other points in the area will reflect higher or lower freight rates compared with those from Charlottetown to Montreal.

At Quebec, an intermediate point, the price will be two cents lower; at Ottawa, it will be two cents higher.

The maximum wholesale price for carload lots at any point in area No. 2 will be \$1.40 and \$1.15 per 100 pounds for No. 1 potatoes; \$1.15 and \$1.50, respectively, for No. 2 grade in lots of 75.

On sales to points north of the boundaries of areas Nos. 2 and 3 the dealer's price will be that of the point of shipment within such areas. Limited agency contracts for transportation costs to destination exceed 35 cents per 100-pound container.

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Red Troops Capture Point In Nazi Rear

By Henry C. Cassidy Associated Press Staff Writer

MOSCOW, Dec. 17 (Thursday)—(AP)—Russian troops captured an inhabited point more than 80 miles to the rear of the German Stalingrad siege army, and destroyed 50 Nazi tanks and a regiment of motorized infantry in a two-day battle southwest of the Volga River. City where enemy counter-attacks have been increasingly troublesome, the Soviets announced early today.

The point taken far to the west of Stalingrad was beyond Surovikino, the Russians said, and 300 enemy guns, 1,500 motor vehicles, two supply-laden trains and other booty were captured.

The capture southwest of Stalingrad was in the area of Verkhne Kunskey where it was said "our troops routed a group of enemy troops that had broken through to this area, disposing of 80 enemy tanks and a regiment of motorized infantry of the sixth German tank division."

Limited Russian successes were reported also on the central front and in the Caucasus.

The Germans lost more than 1,800 men, 30 tanks, 40 planes and other valuable equipment in yesterday's widespread operations, the Russians said. The Nazis, however, were acknowledged to be counter-attacking in nearly all sectors.

British Sub Reported Lost

LONDON, Dec. 16 (CP)—The Admiralty announced tonight the loss of a British submarine "Unbeaten."

The Unbeaten is listed in naval references as of post-war construction, but no details are available as to her specifications or personnel.

Less To Be Released From Bond

Liquor Advertising Prohibited For Duration After Adjustment Period.

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (CP)—Prime Minister Mackenzie King tonight announced a sharp reduction in the amount of beverage alcohol which may be released from bond and the prohibition of liquor and beer advertising for the duration of the war.

In a long-awaited temperance broadcast, made over a National Network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. King announced:

1. Reduction of the amount of beverage alcohol released from bond during the year beginning Nov. 1, 1942, from the previous 12 months, by the following percentages: wine, 10 per cent; wine, 20 per cent; spirits, 30 per cent.

2. Prohibition of all liquor advertising for the duration of the war, after a six weeks' adjustment period.

3. Reduction in the alcoholic content of all distilled spirits to not more than 30 per cent under proof, effective as soon as stocks now packaged and ready for sale are exhausted.

4. Prohibition against fortification of wine with distilled spirits.

5. A request to Provincial Governments to shorten hours of sale to not more than eight hours per day.

The Prime Minister said an order-in-council had been passed today giving effect to an order to the National Revenue Department to reduce the amount of alcohol released from bond for consumption.

The action was taken under authority of the war measures act.

To Aid War Effort

He said these measures were being adopted "as a means of achieving a total war effort." He outlined the steps already taken to curtail beer consumption and the heavy taxation which he believed had retarded the increase in sales.

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Former Farm Boy Outstanding Sniper

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA (Delayed)—(AP)—"A shooting fool" from a Michigan farm who is as cool while hunting Japanese as when he was hunting deer was listed in official records today as one of the outstanding Jap sniper hunters in this jungle battleground.

He is Pte. Charles Zuk of Big Rapids, Mich., and he is officially credited with 22 Japs—all plucked out of trees and holes with a C rifle.

Close behind Zuk is Pte. John Combs of Chattanooga, Tenn., with 17 and he got them all at one time.

Enemy Raiders Over England

LONDON, Dec. 16 (CP)—Another two other persons were killed, others were wounded and buildings were damaged today during the night when enemy aircraft raided the southeast coast.

The London siren to sound the first warning in the capital since Oct. 26.

War Situation Last Night

(By William T. Pascock, Associated Press War Analyst)

All the information trickling out of Tunisia indicates an Allied expectation the Germans will make a hard and bitter fight to hang on to their foothold there. Nevertheless, the possibility, scant as it may seem, cannot be ruled out that what is intended is only a sheltering operation for the escape of some of Rommel's remnants.

In considering such a possibility, it might be well to go back to the time when the British 8th Army shattered Rommel's striking force at El Alamein and the Anglo-American army under Gen. Kenneth Anderson landed in West Africa.

The Axis was confronted then with the necessity for choosing a course of action to abandon the Africa Corps to eventual capture or destruction, to make a desperate effort to bolster its forces and hold on indefinitely somewhere in Africa, or to attempt the removal to Italy of Rommel's remaining army.

The first possible course may be thrown out, for troops were rushed to Tunisia. This action, however, could fit in with either of the other two possibilities.

A glance at the map makes clear that if any sizable part of the Africa Corps is to be evacuated to Italy it must be through Tripoli or the ports of the Tunisian bridgehead.

From Tripoli to Sicily is more than 300 miles. A convoy sailing from there would be subject to daytime attack from British planes, submarines and surface ships. Furthermore, the direct route is flanked by the British and the submarine base of Malta.

From Tunisia to Sicilian ports is 80 to 90 miles, short enough to be covered by surface ships in one night under the protection darkness affords from attacks by air. Even before the Allies moved into West Africa, Axis ships leaving Tripoli would hug the coast to the tip of Tunisia, then dash for Sicily under cover of darkness.

It would appear then that any plan for saving part of the Africa Corps would require holding the Tunisian coast line until it could be carried out.

There are, of course, obvious advantages for the Axis in maintaining its hold in Tunisia as long as possible. The chief one is that it keeps the Mediterranean narrows between Tunisia and Sicily closed to Allied shipping.

It was vital, too, to hold this bridgehead until troop dispositions could be made for defence against any Allied thrust across the Mediterranean immediately after the landings in West Africa.

Darlan Makes Formal Statement On Policy

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Dec. 16 (AP)—Admiral Jean Darlan's formal statement today that "French Africa, with the Allies, must make the maximum military effort for the defeat of Germany and Italy."

The former commander of all Vichy's armed forces disclaimed personal responsibility for his motives in joining the Allies and said that once free of the Axis yoke "the French people themselves will decide freely the form of government and national policy they desire."

"I have stated emphatically and repeatedly to the commander-in-chief General Eisenhower that in leading North and West Africa against Germany and Italy and into the ranks of the United Nations I seek no assistance or support for my personal ambition," he told British and American correspondents.

Reuters News Agency quoted him as telling this press conference that the Germans "had me by the throat" when he was taken into cooperation with the Nazis in the days before the Allied occupation of French Africa had been forced upon him.

"Every move I made," he continued, according to Reuters, "everything I said or wrote, and every step I took, was dictated by the closeness of German scrutiny; there were spies about me all the time."

Darlan as he read his statement to correspondents at his luxurious villa was Robert Murphy, President Roosevelt's special representative.

The stocky, red-faced admiral, recognized by Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower as high commissioner of French Africa, said that "at last liberated from German and Italian restrictions, French authorities in Africa will adjust the situation which has existed to accord with French National traditions."

Peering through his horn-rimmed glasses as he read his statement, he said these steps already had been taken:

- 1. "Measures have been taken to stop immediately whatever persecution of Jews may have resulted from laws passed in France under German pressure."
- 2. "North African shipping is allowed."

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Resignation Due To C.C.F. "Strategy"

WINNIPEG, Dec. 16 (CP)—Premier John Bracken today said that the resignation from the Coalition Cabinet of Hon. S. J. Farmer, Minister of Labor, had been prompted by the "political strategy" of the C.C.F. Party.

Mr. Farmer, C.C.F. House Leader, announced his resignation last week and the withdrawal of the three-man group in the Legislature from participation in the Bracken Coalition Administration.

The C.C.F. Leader gave as his reason "the apparent withdrawal of Mr. Bracken to accept the leadership of the National Conservative Party."

(Mr. Bracken was elected leader of the C.C.F. Party at a Dominion Convention here last week.)

Mr. Bracken today accepted the resignation of Mr. Farmer and in a letter to the C.C.F. leader, he said: "I am forced to believe that you have advanced flimsy pretexts in order to hide your real reason for resigning."

"You know perfectly well that during the last several months you yourself have brought to bear upon you, against your own convictions, the House but from persons in your political organization outside of the House, to resign your position."

"You let me believe that although you as a member of the Government were accomplishing something for the workers, that the C.C.F. Party, more particularly the Federal section, did not wish you to be in the Government; because being there did not fit with the political strategy of that Party."

Coldwell Comment

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (CP)—M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. National Leader, today termed "ungracious" Bracken's statements of Premier Bracken's new Progressive Conservative Leader, concerning the resignation from his Manitoba House of Mr. Farmer, Minister of Labor and C.C.F. House Leader.

Mr. Coldwell said the C.C.F. Party executive had hoped for Mr. Farmer's withdrawal from the Coalition because it had become "increasingly clear that Bracken was in the process of introducing any genuinely progressive program for Manitoba."

Bewilderment, Disbelief In London Circles

LONDON, Dec. 16 (CP)—Admiral Jean Darlan's formal statement here tonight ranging from bewilderment to disbelief, and renewed the controversy over his agreement with Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, United States commander of Allied forces in North Africa.

Most Britons interpreted the statement as an effort to refute criticism of his position, and his professed intention to retire to his private life after the war was regarded by many as an attempt to reconcile his British public opinion with the arrangement.

Emmanuel Shinwell, labor member of Parliament and bitter critic of collaboration with the admiral, said: "Darlan must be considered only in terms of the services he can render. When we succeed in our operations, we can do with Darlan as we please."

A spokesman for Gen. Charles de Gaulle's Fighting French organization commented: "The admiral's (Darlan's) whole career has proved that his only motives are personal motives."

He says the Germans forced him to collaborate. But they could not force him to assume all the high offices in the Vichy regime that he did assume. Many other Frenchmen fled. He stayed and collaborated."

Would Pool Taxi Services

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (CP)—Taxi services in each city will be pooled and operated through a single central switchboard if efforts now being made by Transit Control and the C.C.F. Party are successful, it was indicated today.

Municipal Minister Howe referred to the pooling plan in an address to the pooling plan in an address discussing the taxi situation generally, he said: "The problem is a difficult one but taxi service cannot be continued under present wasteful methods."

Signs Of Some Disorder In Axis Forces

Some Prisoners Are Taken; Axis Capitals Admit Battle.

(By E. C. Daniel, Associated Press Staff Writer)

LONDON, Dec. 16 (AP)—British advance columns have fought an important action with Field Marshal Rommel's rearguard in desert wastes "somewhere west of El Agheila" and taken a number of prisoners, reports from Cairo said tonight while a rising Allied air attack beat at the Axis in both Libya and Tunisia.

Berlin bore the report that an engagement had taken place when the German news and propaganda agency D.N.B. broadcast, obviously for foreign consumption, that the British 8th Army lost 20 tanks in a fight lasting several hours.

Neither the Berlin nor the Cairo report gave any hint of Rommel's position except that the British indicated he was continuing his flight.

British reports said the Allied air force ceaselessly supporting the ground troops of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery was constantly attacking the retreating Axis soldiers.

For the first time there were suggestions of disorder in Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's flight. Road blocks created by Allied armor attacking at night persisted for hours and presented to shuffling daylight attackers the mushroomed targets of tanks and trucks and men caught in traffic jams or huddled in gullies.

The best information indicated that advance British forces had reached a point 100 miles beyond El Agheila, the starting point of the latest Axis retreat, about 800 miles from Tripoli.

British headquarters in Cairo, reporting that the forward forces were "greatly impeded by mines" left by the Nazis, announced the pursuit had gone forward "well west of El Agheila."

This report, and those from all other sources, indicated Allied airmen were causing tremendous damage among Rommel's columns and that yesterday, in particular, saw the most powerful bombing assault yet delivered upon the enemy.

Heavy Air Action

United States army headquarters in Cairo announced that American troops of the 9th United States Air Force "all saw heavy action yesterday," adding: "Targets were enemy motor transport moving toward the El Agheila position. Many hits were scored with bombs and numerous vehicles destroyed or set on fire."

As to Tunisia, where information on land action again is scant, a commentator of the R.A.F. said the odds now are "very much in favor" of the Allies in the contest for control of those African skies.

Brighter Estimate

Giving an estimate that was far brighter than previous ones, he said that strong Axis forces based in Sicily have for some reason not been brought to use as effectively as might have been expected.

While he made clear the Allies' priority aloft, he said their aerial strength has been increasing since the consolidation and contraction of the Allied line before Bizerte, and that they brought the battle front closer to effective air bases.

Pointing to a long series of attacks on Axis supply lines, he said that strong new Allied raids on the Axis Tunisian harbors of Bizerte and La Goulette and another attack Monday night on Naples in Italy.

Toronto Mayor Has Butter Plan

TORONTO, Dec. 16 (CP)—Mayor Conboy said today he was asking the University of Toronto to study means of multiplying the supply of butter by combining it with animal fats.

He said he would call another conference of the housewives-consumers association and the retail merchants' association to discuss the voluntary rationing of butter plan submitted by the organizations.

Food administrator J. G. Taggart's view that the plan is unworkable is "altogether discouraging," the mayor said.

FEWER COMPLAINTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (AP)—Although she termed Britain's war diet dull, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt said today she had heard less complaint there than in the United States.

The British people and children on the whole have been well fed and will continue to be so, she said. The President's wife told nutrition experts at the first public hearing of the New York State Joint Legislative committees in Washington.

King George Praises Air Training Plan

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (CP)—King George, in a message to Prime Minister Mackenzie King on the third anniversary of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, tonight described the plan as "perhaps the most striking feature in the magnificent effort which Canada has made in so many directions towards winning the war."

Mr. King made public the King's message with one from Prime Minister Churchill expressing thanks to the government and people of Canada for their efforts in establishing the plan. Statements by Mr. King and Air Minister Powley also marking the anniversary of the training plan.

King George said the young airmen he had met in the United Kingdom were the best proof of the success of the plan and paid tribute to the energy and organizing ability of the Canadians responsible for its success.

VICE-REGAL TOUR

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (CP)—The Governor-General and Princess Alice left today for Montreal, where they were to begin tonight with Prince Simon, Norwegian Minister to Canada.

Tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. E.D.T. the Governor-General will visit the Red Cross parcel packing depot and Red Cross house, and in the afternoon the R.C.A. Victor plant.

6 MORE SHOPPING DAYS BE GENEROUS TO A FAULT! ESPECIALLY IF IT'S YOUR OWN

High tide this morning at 7:34 and lowest at 7:54. Sun sets this afternoon at 5:11 and rises tomorrow morning at 8:22. Full moon Dec. 22, 11:08 p.m. Summer tide 18 minutes later than Charlottetown.

CAR FERRY SERVICE DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY From Borden—Leave 9:05 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 8:25 p.m. Leave Cape Tormentine—10:20 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:05 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8:15 p.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE (May 3 to Dec. 27 inclusive) Leave Borden 9:00 a.m., 6:45 p.m. Leave Tormentine 10:15 a.m., 8:15 p.m.

DAILY AIR SERVICE (EXCEPT SUNDAY) Charlottetown—Summerside—Montreal Leave Charlottetown 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. Leave Summerside 1 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 7:05 p.m.