

Confessions are not always what they seem; pain forces the innocent to lie.

# THE GUARDIAN OF THE GULF

The People's Paper Read by Everybody

Even in the utmost prosperity the advice of friends is to be very greatly employed.

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# FEAR 1,000 DEAD IN TEXAS CITY EXPLOSION

## 10-Cent Increase In Butter Prices Likely

By GEORGE KITCHEN

OTTAWA, April 16—(CP)—An increase of 10 cents or more a pound in the retail price of butter, if the current 10-cent subsidy on butterfat is dropped April 30, appeared to be a foregone conclusion tonight in the light of a statement made in the Commons today by Agriculture Minister Gardiner.

Discussing the butter subsidy, Mr. Gardiner told the House any price changes on dairy products would be announced "shortly before" May 1 and at the same time assured the House the Government had "no intention of reducing the return which farmers would be receiving from May 1 on as compared with that they had received just prior to May 1."

"As to what form the payment will take," he added, "I am not in a position to say at the present time."

Mr. Gardiner was replying to R. E. Drope, Progressive Conservative member for the Ontario riding of Northumberland, who asked specifically whether the

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## Coming Events

\*\*C. C. F. meeting at Emerald Friday night, April 18.

\*\*Loading Hogs for Canada Packers Ltd., each Tuesday at Vernon River. G. Lea.

\*\*Loading Hogs at Montague Station each Thursday for Canada Packers Ltd. S. C. McLean. Phone

\*\*Loading Hogs at Peakes Canada Packers Ltd., Merlin Devine.

\*\*Loading Hogs for Canada Packers at Vernon Bridge each Tuesday afternoon, while truck road closed. W. Crane.

\*\*Spring Park Women's Institute Bazaar and Pantry Sale, Holmans, April 19th.

\*\*"Black Gold", 3-act comedy drama with specialties. Victoria, Monday, April 21st.

\*\*To arrive, choice double reelected Pease River oats. Book. McGuigan & Boyle.

\*\*Dancing, Happy Islanders, Country Club, Travellers Rest, tonight with Happy Islanders Band.

\*\*See "Lavender and Old Lace" by Vernon River Players, in Vernon River Hall, Friday, April 18th.

\*\*Loading Hogs at Cardigan Station each Thursday for Canada Packers Ltd. Norman McKenzie, Cardigan.

\*\*Loading Hogs for Canada Packers at St. Peters each Tuesday until train time, while roads closed to trucks. Signed David Pratt.

\*\*Loading Hogs for Canada Packers at Mt. Stewart each Tuesday until train time, while roads closed to trucks. Signed Earl Jay.

\*\*Unloading car of choice Alberta oats Wednesday. Get your requirements now. McGuigan & Boyle.

\*\*Sterling Ings, Cherry Valley, trucking hogs to Charlottetown Tuesdays and Fridays. Contact Sterling for expert service. Livestock Marketing Board.

\*\*Ingus Diamond, Winsloe, trucking hogs for Marketing Board each Tuesday and Friday forenoon. Contact for service. Livestock Marketing Board.

\*\*Sterling Squires, Greenwich, St. Peters Bay, trucking hogs for Marketing Board every Monday. Phone for service to George McInnis, St. Peters. Livestock Marketing Board.

\*\*Robert Crabbe, Milton, will be trucking hogs for us to Charlottetown each Tuesday and Friday forenoon when permissible and possible. Livestock Marketing Board.

\*\*Collecting Hogs for Canada Packers Ltd., every Friday, Souris, Holo Bay, Fortune Bridge, Fortune, Amundale, Dundas, Bridgetown, Strathcona. George Dingwell.

\*\*Livestock Marketing Board loading hogs at all usual points week of April 21st. Where trucking is bad, please bring hogs by team to nearest landing point. We truck where possible when permissible.

\*\*Fulton Douglas, Savage Harbour, is our representative in Mount Stewart district. Trucking every Tuesday and Friday morning. Make truck reservation early to Fulton expects to be over-laded last-minute comers. Livestock Marketing Board.

## Says Serious Problem Faces Business Men

Chamber Of Commerce Member Guest Speaker At Board Of Trade Meeting.

The serious problem facing Canadian business men today is the growth of Communism and communist-infected governments in Canada, Mr. C. H. Schofield, manager of the membership branch of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, told the Charlottetown Board of Trade last night at its regular quarterly meeting held in the Charlottetown Hotel.

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## Farewell Party For Rev. And Mrs. I. J. Levy



REV. I. J. LEVY

A congregational social which took the form of a farewell party to Rev. I. Judson Levy and Mrs. Levy of the Charlottetown Baptist Church was held last evening in the Church Hall with a capacity gathering. Mr. and Mrs. Levy are leaving in a few days for Moncton, N. B., where Mr. Levy is to take over the pastorate of the First Baptist Church.

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## Rural Members Oppose Ch'town Tax Provisions

Heads Dept. In Newest University



MR. FRANK MCKINNON

Carlton College of Ottawa, Canada's newest University, has announced the appointment of Professor Frank McKinnon to be head of the Department of Political Science. A specialist in Canadian government and political history, the new teacher is a native of Charlottetown, P. E. I., and a graduate of McGill and Toronto Universities.

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## Declares N. B. Had Deficit, Not Surplus

(By The Canadian Press) FREDERICTON, April 16—The budget speech of the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer actually revealed a deficit camouflaged by a surplus. F. C. Squires (PC-Carleton) declared in the New Brunswick Legislature today in winding up the budget debate for the Opposition. The debate will be concluded tomorrow by Premier McNair.

Mr. Squires said the increase or decrease in the net debt determined a government's surplus or deficit. As New Brunswick's net debt had increased annually \$329,000, there was an average annual deficit of the same amount.

Mr. Squires also criticized "order-in-council" government expenditures. Although this was not in accord with the principles of democratic government, he said it had become the policy of the present administration.

He charged the government with failure to lessen the burden of taxation, to balance the budget through retrenchment rather than taxation, to establish a national park, to revitalize industry and to restore sinking fund levies.

Commenting on Agriculture Minister Taylor's suggestion that only Dominion marketing legislation could save the New Brunswick potato industry, Mr. Squires said the Federal Government was more interested in marketing Central Canadian products. He attributed unsatisfactory conditions in the industry largely to the cold-blooded and refractory attitude of the Dominion Government.

He urged a long term, \$1,000,000 educational program of increases in teachers' salaries, more regional high schools, adjustment of school curricula to meet modern trends and equal educational opportunity to all children of the Province.

## Gouzenko To Seek Canadian Citizenship

OTTAWA, April 16—(CP)—Justice Minister, Isley told the Commons today he believed it was the intention of Igor Gouzenko, former Russian Embassy cipher clerk and key man in the espionage trials, to apply for Canadian citizenship.

Answering a series of questions, he confirmed reports that Gouzenko had been made a British subject by cabinet action and said it was possible for the new Canadian citizenship certificates if they had certain residence qualifications.

## Big Liner Escapes Damage In Grounding

SOUTHAMPTON, England, Apr. 16—The Queen Elizabeth, freed after being stuck fast on a sandbank for a day and a night at the entrance to Southampton harbor, docked tonight—50½ hours behind schedule.

Capt. C. M. Ford, master of the vessel, said that the grounding of the liner off Southampton had been due to a mechanical fault and that the ship was "undamaged."

## Explosion Caused By Ammonium Nitrate

(By Howard W. Blakeslee) ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., April 16—(AP)—Dr. Charles Alan Thomas of St. Louis, vice president of the Monsanto Chemical Company, said today he had learned by long distance telephone that the Texas City disaster was caused by the explosion of ammonium nitrate aboard a French ship.

Thomas, president-elect of the American Chemical Society in annual convention here, said his company plant at Texas City, set afire as a result of the explosion was engaged in the production of styrene, a liquid used in making synthetic rubber and plastics.

Styrene is not explosive, Thomas said, but will burn as rapidly as gasoline.

Ordinarily ammonium nitrate, used in fertilizers, is not a sensitive explosive, Thomas said, but "when it goes off it has the explosive power of TNT."

Ammonium nitrate caused one of the world's great disasters in 1921 when an explosion at the Badische Anilin plant destroyed the German city of Oppau and killed 1,000 to 1,500 persons.

Ammonium nitrate, a white powder, is made in the United States, among other places, by government explosive plants. These plants produce synthetic nitrogen for use in making explosives. After the war part of the government equipment was modified to produce the fertilizer ammonium nitrate instead of explosives.

Because of the world food shortage the ammonium nitrate of American plants has come not only to supply American farmers but for shipment abroad. When used for fertilizer the white stuff receives an addition of an inert chemical, often a form of calcium, so that it is no longer explosive when the farmers use it.

Thomas and his aides here said they did not know the precise circumstances under which ammonium nitrate could be exploded. A heavy shock, such as an explosion in a fire on the French ship along with the intense heat might have set off the fertilizer cargo.

Chemists here said that if any part of fertilizer exploded, the entire shipload would detonate at the same time.

## Sudden Death Of Mr. W.H.V. Dunbar



THE LATE MR. DUNBAR

Many friends in the City and Province learned with regret of the death of Mr. W. H. V. Dunbar in the Prince Edward Island Hospital early yesterday morning.

The late Mr. Dunbar was born in Alton, Ontario, near Guelph in 1891, and came to this province as a teller in the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1916. Resigning from the Assistant Manager in 1923 he assumed the management of the Eastern Securities Company with which he has been associated ever since.

In the intervening years Mr. Dunbar has been a well known figure in the social and financial life of the community. As vice-chairman of the National War Finance Committee he was active in all nine Victory Loans and achieved remarkable success which won for him grateful recognition from his King and the coveted decoration of the O.B.E. He took a leading part in the promotion of the tourist industry and his magnificent property at Keppoch under the supervision of Mrs. Dunbar is well and favorably known by many prominent persons in many parts of the Dominion.

He leaves to mourn his wife, the former Miss Helen Bagnall of this city, one brother R. C. of Guelph and one sister, Mrs. Reta Robinson of Toronto.

(Continued on Page 11 Col. 1)

## Any Old Chairs To Be Repaired?

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., April 16—(AP)—The stickiest of all glues—strong enough to lift a 100,000-pound locomotive—was reported to the American Chemical Society today.

The new stuff is a cross between glue and plastics and was described by Fritz J. Nagel and Elizabeth M. Ackerman, of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

They said a joint six inches square, glued together, would not pull apart in lifting the locomotive, but perhaps the rest of the lifting beam would tear, because this glue does not fasten pieces or iron.

It cements together almost any other material, including wood, rubber, plastics, leather, paper, cardboard and porous ceramics.

## Bracken Urges Settle Home Disputes First

OTTAWA, April 16—(CP)—John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, advised the Government tonight to give its first attention to domestic problems rather than international affairs.

In an address prepared for delivery over the CBC's trans-Canada network on the political free-time series, he declared Canada was sending delegations all over the world to settle international disputes but refused to call the provincial governments together to "settle our own disputes at home."

## Halifax Wrestles With Unemployment

HALIFAX, April 16—(CP)—With some 4,000 idle in the port city of 97,000, civic officials wrestled today with plans for public works to alleviate the mushrooming unemployment situation, one of the worst in Canada.

Mayor J. E. Ahern said he would make an announcement to city council tomorrow night dealing with the proposed construction of a bridge across Halifax harbor linking the city with Dartmouth, but he did not disclose any details.

He added only that any such scheme, like others, would require the full co-operation of Provincial and Federal Governments.

From City Hall came the announcement that public works projects, due to start the middle of next month, would include the laying of new streets, sidewalks and sewers.

LONDON — (CP) — Licences are again being granted for house-painting in London after a ban to save labor and materials.

(Continued on Page 5 Col. 4)

## Blast Touched Off By Fire On Ship

TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 16—(AP)—Giant explosions smashed the waterfront of this industrial Gulf port today, killing hundreds, injuring thousands, and tonight survivors fled the danger area under threats of fresh disaster.

Fire, which spread to the docks and industrial area after the French freighter Grandcamp blew up at its berth, drew close to an ammunition dump, a poison gas plant and a ship holding nitroglycerin.

Estimates of the dead ranged from 1,200 down to 450. Rev. M. A. Record of Houston, who with other priests probed the wreckage to administer the last sacraments to the dead, said: "There are hundreds of bodies still to be found."

Many of the fatalities occurred on the waterfront after the nitrate-loaded Grandcamp, an American-built Liberty ship, exploded, killing all of its crew of about 40 men. Sightsseers flocked to the docks, to be caught by following blasts which demolished the \$19,000,000 war-built plant of the Monsanto Chemical Company.

Mayor J. C. Trahan said he knew of 300 dead. G. B. Finley, state highway commission official, said at Austin that officials at the scene had indicated the toll would reach 1,200. Houston police sergeant Wiley Whately, at the disaster scene, estimated that the death toll would be between 450 and 500.

The chain was set off by the explosion of a nitrate-loaded French freighter, the Grandcamp, at 9:12 a.m. CST. The ship was obliterated and its entire crew perished.

Subsequent blasts wiped out the huge war-built plant of the Monsanto Chemical Company. Thirty-five employees were reported hopelessly trapped in the burning ruins today.

The Houston Post's report from state editor Elbert Turner said that residents were racing in all directions to get out of town ahead of the expected new blasts. Turner also said that chlorine gas had saturated the dock area and was feared to be moving toward the city's residential and business sections.

Much of the boom industrial city was destroyed or damaged by blast or fire. Property damage will run into millions of dollars.

Worst Since Halifax Explosion It was the worst explosion disaster in North America since the Halifax harbor blast in 1917. The first blast rocked the surrounding region for 150 miles, inflicting heavy damage in Galveston. All aboard the ship, the French freighter Grandcamp, were killed.

Midwestern headquarters of the Red Cross at St. Louis reported that 500 bodies had been brought out of the explosion area late today and that more bodies were being found constantly.

The estimate of dead was reported by G.B. Finley, state highway commission maintenance engineer, on information from the disaster area.

One In Three Killed "Rescue parties bringing out casualties from the blast area estimated that about one out of every three persons had been killed," Finley said, "which would indicate around 1,200 dead."

He referred to the dock area, where principal damage occurred and where there were some 3,500 persons at the time of the major blast.

A reporter flying over the scene likened it to bomb destruction of European cities in the Second World War. The mushrooming cloud of smoke that arose was described as resembling the aftermath of the atom bombing of

(Continued on Page 5 Col. 4)

## Irish Moss Prospects Good Says Dr. Needler

OTTAWA, April 16—(Special)—Prospects for maintenance at its present levels and even expansion of the Irish moss industry in Prince Edward Island are good despite European competition, Dr. A. W. H. Needler, director of the Atlantic Fisheries Research Station at St. Andrew's, N. B., told the Guardian today.

Dr. Needler was chairman of a series of informal meetings of scientists and research workers from Government departments and private industry gathered in Ottawa to discuss additional research into the industry. Representatives of cheese, chocolate and pharmaceutical industries from as far west as Chicago attended the meetings.

Here to Stay

"I'm convinced the Irish moss industry in Prince Edward Island is here to stay," Dr. Needler said. "Already it has been faced with

competition from Europe but in 1946 production reached an all-time peak of more than 300,000 pounds in Prince Edward Island."

The Fisheries Research Station head said the meetings concentrated chiefly on research problems concerning Irish moss and agreement was reached to prevent duplication or overlapping of research and to "fill up gaps" in present technical knowledge of the product. Suggestion was made, he said, that there might be a minor price drop some time within the next year, but even if such was the case, delegates to the meeting felt that the primary producer would obtain a fair margin of profit.

On the technical side, certain Irish moss research problems are being assigned to the National Research Council, Dr. Needler said. Other phases will be dealt with by private industry and the uni-

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## BULLETIN

TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 17 — (Thursday) — (AP) — A 7,000 ton freighter, the High Flyer, loaded with 900 tons of ammonium nitrate, was burning fiercely early today at the explosion-torn Texas City dock.

Hundreds of rescue workers were menaced by the danger of a second explosion such as that which tore apart the French freighter Grandcamp early yesterday, killing hundreds of persons and injuring thousands.

COPENHAGEN, April 17 — (AP) — Crown Prince Fredrik told a cabinet council at Amaleneborg Castle today "there is only a little hope" that 76-year-old King Christian can recover from a heart attack, a qualified source reported today.

Danish cabinet members were ordered to stay at home tonight and remain near a telephone. The King's temperature rose to 102.

Plant Wiped Out Subsequent blasts wiped out the huge war-built plant of the Monsanto Chemical Company. Thirty-five employees were reported hopelessly trapped in the burning ruins today.

The Houston Post's report from state editor Elbert Turner said that residents were racing in all directions to get out of town ahead of the expected new blasts. Turner also said that chlorine gas had saturated the dock area and was feared to be moving toward the city's residential and business sections.

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HALIFAX, April 16 — Weather synopsis and official inland forecasts issued by the Dominion Public Weather Office here at 11:15 p.m. tonight.

Synopsis: Snow and rain has spread from Quebec and New England into the Maritimes. The snow that now covers southern Nova Scotia will continue to move eastward and change to rain. In southern Nova Scotia rain has already begun and will continue to move eastward. A new storm centre is developing near Cape Cod and will cause a small area of gales as it moves across the Maritimes toward Northern Newfoundland. Slightly colder air from the west will cover the district by Thursday evening resulting in partial clearing.

Forecasts, valid until Thursday midnight: Prince Edward Island: Snow tonight, changing to rain by morning and ending during the afternoon. Cloudy Thursday evening. Little change in temperature. Southeast winds increasing to 25 and shifting to west 20. High Thursday at Charlottetown 40.

High tide this morning at 8:26 and tonight at 7:45. Sun sets this evening at 6:47 and rises tomorrow morning at 5:12. New moon April 20th, 11:19 P.M. Summerside tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.

"PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND" Daily except Sunday. Leave Borden at 9:05 A.M. Leave Tormentine at 3 P.M.

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Vacuum Packed - Always Fresh!