

30 DEATHS IN CALIFORNIA FLOOD

Local Shipping Held Up Pending Saurel's Return

With ice conditions rapidly becoming worse, the big question on the minds of local shipping interests is, how soon can their ships clear the harbour. There was no movement anywhere around the harbour yesterday. With the CGS Saurel away all ships were held at their berths.

The Saurel which had left port at four p.m. Wednesday to convey the Brant to Pictou, reported that she arrived at that port at nine a.m. yesterday. She was held up for three hours at Pictou with condenser trouble. After repairs were completed she then made three cuts in the harbour there, and left for Charlottetown at approximately 3.30 in the afternoon. By 9.30 last night she was reported off Point Prim, and it was estimated that she would arrive inside the harbor about midnight. Arrangements were being made

late last night to have the Saurel convey the potato boat Seagull out early this morning. This ship completed loading yesterday afternoon. At the same time that the Saurel is taken out, the Irving Company tanker Seekonk is expected to follow in her wake until she reaches the Irvingbrook. The tanker is expected to be loaded by the time the Saurel is on her way in from taking the Seagull out to open water, and will then enter the harbor again in the wake of the government ship.

The Irvingbrook was herself held fast for several hours yesterday but succeeded in freeing herself during the afternoon, and she continued to lie to off St. Peter's Island.

A third tanker of the Irving fleet, the Irvinglake, which had been undergoing repairs in Pictou, sailed from that port late Wednesday and became fast in the ice off Pictou Island. She also succeeded in freeing herself yesterday afternoon, and proceeded to Sydney, N.S.

The Irving Company are hoping to be able to complete a third trip with the Seekonk early Saturday providing conditions permit. The ship is carrying a cargo of 400,000 gallons of fuel and stove oil each trip the concentration on these types of products is being made, as they receive the greatest call from the general public at this season of the year.

The fertilizer boat, Mexico, completed discharging her cargo yesterday afternoon. By until late last night it was not known whether she would take on a cargo of potatoes. The ship has suffered damage to her heating and water systems, which has made it necessary for the crew to be billeted ashore.



RHYTHM BAND PERFORMERS AT ORPHANAGE CONCERT.

Barter's Film Lab.

Town Of Weott Wiped Out

SAN FRANCISCO, (AP)—Thirty persons were reported drowned Thursday in the flood torrent of the Eel river in isolated Humboldt county. The town of Weott was reported wiped out by the Eel's rampaging waters.

The Eel was wreaking the greatest damage of a score of storm swollen streams along a thousand miles of the Pacific coast in northern California and southern Oregon.

Torrential rain continued and which stopped the runoff of melting snow in the mountains.

More was forecast. The Red Cross said the already serious disaster situation probably would grow worse.

Elmer Hodgkinson, managing editor of the Humboldt Times at Eureka, reported the drowning toll of 30 in a short wave radio message relayed by the naval reserve station there.

Phone communication with all Humboldt county was cut off. Highways and rail lines also were cut.

TWENTY-FIVE SWEPT AWAY
Hodgkinson's message said 25 persons were seen carried away in the flood at Rio Dell, downstream from Weott.

He said several homes were swept away at Bellevue with screaming victims trapped inside.

Two women and a girl were carried away in the north fork of the American river in Placer county as they attempted to flee the flood water.

Meanwhile the situation began to improve in western Oregon, where suddenly rising rivers drove at least 1,500 persons from their homes and left stranded hundreds of travelers, homebound for Christmas.

The weather also turned colder.

Says Door Not Closed On Potato Deal With Britain

Hon. Eugene Cullen, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday on his return from Ottawa that the door has not been closed on the British deal for Canadian potatoes. In conference with officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Cullen was told that negotiations would be carried on to see if some of the surplus Canadian crop could be diverted to the British Isles.

The officials in making comparison with the 1947 deal with Great Britain pointed out that these

things were pointed out to the delegation, hope was expressed that something may yet be worked out. Questioned regarding the government's position, Mr. Cullen said that the Potato Board manager had covered this phase of the conference thoroughly and there was little he could add to Mr. Campbell's report.

The Minister was pleased with the reception of the delegation at Ottawa, noting that they were given plenty of time to present their case in which both Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick were essentially in agreement.

Airmen Safe After Plane Is Crash Landed

WINNIPEG (CP)—Three U.S. Air Force officers, forced to spend a sub-zero night by their plane that crashed landed in northwestern Ontario Wednesday night, walked through deep snow to safety Thursday.

Within hours the men were on their way to their home base at Minneapolis.

The plane, its pilot lost in a blinding snowstorm, came down on a snow-covered clearing about seven miles northwest of Graham, Ont.

The pilot, Capt. H. W. Burch of Omaha, Neb., co-pilot Capt. D. L. Stovary of East Beckley, W. Va. and chaplain, Major E. R. Veatch of Drake, N. D., escaped injury when their plane clipped several trees and dropped into the snow as darkness closed in over the isolated area.

Children At Orphanage Give Christmas Concert

Children of all ages from preschool to the higher grades living at the P.E. Island Protestant Orphanage took part in the annual Christmas concert last night, presented by them for the enjoyment of friends of the young folk. Major T.E. MacNutt presided.

Floyd Hicken extended the welcome to the large number of guests in attendance.

The program opened with a group of four numbers by preschool children followed by Ernest Larter in a recitation, "The stuffed Dog", and Joseph MacKinnon in the solo "Jingle Bells". "Dancing Around The Christmas Tree" was then staged by a Junior group and Calvin Glover sang "Open Up Your Heart" and the Juniors favoured with another chorus "Away In A Manger. A dialogue "A Miss At Christmas" was followed by Debbie Genge singing "The Snowflake".

The Junior Rhythm Band was particularly effective in "Jingle Bells" and "My Gift To You" recited by Barbara Ann Cameron was followed by the boys chorus "Deck the Halls", concluding the first portion of the entertainment.

Following intermission, two choruses were given; "Angels We Have Heard On High" and "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" and two vocal numbers, "Me and My Teddy Bear" by Roberta Chisholm and "White Christmas" by Sylvia Grat. Eight juniors presented "Why Your Heart" and the Juniors favoured with another chorus "Away In A Manger. A dialogue "A Miss At Christmas" was followed by Debbie Genge singing "The Snowflake".

Paraguay Quiet After Crisis

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)—President Alfredo Stroessner revealed Thursday a "command crisis" broke out Wednesday in the 1st Cavalry Division but said the situation was well in hand.

Other sources said the outbreak actually was an unsuccessful revolt against Stroessner's government, involving not only some cavalry units but the entire Asuncion police force. Stroessner's communication was the first official acknowledgement of the trouble.

Snow Storm Breaks Cold Wave In Parts Of Ontario

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
A snow storm Thursday loosened the grip of a three-day cold snap in sections of Ontario, but continuing nip-ping weather was forecast for the Prairies and eastern provinces.

From five to eight inches of snow were predicted for central and southern regions of Ontario before the snowfall was due to end Thursday night. The weatherman predicted a second eastward-moving storm would dump more snow on the province Friday.

Quebec was due for some snow Friday and moderating temperatures, the weatherman said. But thermometer readings overnight Thursday were well below zero throughout the province.

FARMER FLASHING TOO MUCH MONEY

WINNIPEG (CP)—A farmer from Swift Current, Sask., walked into a drug store in one of Winnipeg's poorer districts Wednesday and flashed a bundle of \$1,000 bills.

"I counted over 20 of the bigger bills he was waving around," said the store owner, Hy Shapiro. "He admitted himself that he had more than \$41,000 in cold cash. I couldn't stand it."

Mr. Shapiro called the police who escorted the farmer to headquarters for a little talk. It turned out the farmer had recently sold some property back home.

The police followed police suggestions and deposited the money with a trust company.

Widow Of Lightkeeper Picked Up By 'Copter

SYDNEY (CP)—A navy helicopter lifted the pregnant widow of a drowned lightkeeper from lonely St. Paul's island, 15 miles off the northern tip of Cape Breton island, Thursday.

Mrs. Mary Gatzka, 27, whose husband drowned when a boatwain's chair dropped into the sea Tuesday, was flown here for medical examination. She expects a baby in April.

Doctors said her condition was satisfactory. She left later for her home in New Waterford, 14 miles from here.

50-MILE WINDS
The helicopter from Shearwater naval air station near Halifax was set down on the rocky island by Lt.-Cmdr. G. J. Laurie of Swift Current, Sask. He had to cope with 50-mile-an-hour winds and snow squalls in the 45-minute flight from Sydney airport. Finding a landing spot was difficult because of hilly terrain and snow but he got down safely.

High seas made it impossible for Mrs. Gatzka to leave the island by boat. She and her husband had been there two years but planned to leave next spring.

"It was too lonely," she said as she sipped a cup of coffee at the airport.

Six Persons Injured As Fire Hits Rooming House

MONTREAL (CP)—Fire whipped through a four-storey rooming-house building in midtown Montreal Thursday night and at least six persons, including four firemen, were injured.

None was seriously hurt and there was believed to be no loss of life.

More than two hours after the three-alarm outbreak, near the corner of St. Catherine and Bleury streets, district fire chief Andre Plaisant said the fire was under control.

Plaisant estimated the damage at \$200,000.

Scores of pieces of fire-fighting equipment covered on the St. Catherine-Bleury intersection and firemen fought the blaze in sub-zero weather.

The fire raged upward through the building and blew through the roof, sending flames shooting 35 feet into the air. The back section of the roof collapsed.

At one time the flames threatened a movie theatre.

The injured, Jean Bolvin said there were about 80 persons in the theatre when the fire started and all left.

NO DEATHS KNOWN
Director Raymond Pare of the Montreal fire department said there apparently was no loss of life.

"But I can't say for a certainty" he said. "Firemen haven't been able to search the building. It may even take days."

The injured, said Mr. Campbell, Miss Marie-Jeanne Gagnon, 39, suffering from shock and smoke. Mrs. Legis Potier, 34, shock and smoke.

Fireman Hector Fortin, 40, injured in fall from third floor; 36, injured in fall from third floor; 36, struck in face by stream from fire hose.

Minor Reduction Seen In U.S. Potato Production

A minor reduction is shown in the latest United States potato production estimates issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and received by the Prince Edward Island Potato Marketing Board this week.

Mr. Elric Campbell, Board Manager stated last night that the reduction which effects nine of the central and nine of the Eastern States amounts to about two and a half million bushels. The previous report showed the U.S. production to be 176,038,000 bushels while the latest report is shown to be 173,397,000 bushels.

These figures would seem to indicate a surplus in the Maritimes which well warrants the efforts being made to divert a quantity of potatoes to the Maritimes. "Whether or not the diversion program will be adequate, remains unknown, but if it is implemented, the response to the New Brunswick grower will be significant and indicative of whether or not the Maritime growers are prepared to co-operate in relieving a surplus which is due to exceptionally good growing conditions during the past season."

Continuing, Mr. Campbell said, "For Prince Edward Island, a British market next Spring has not been forgotten, but at the same time cannot be relied upon. So if New Brunswick does not use the diversion program—if it comes—and in New Brunswick they are up 3,700,000 over the previous year, "These figures would seem to indicate a surplus in the Maritimes which well warrants the efforts being made to divert a quantity of potatoes to the Maritimes. "Whether or not the diversion program will be adequate, remains unknown, but if it is implemented, the response to the New Brunswick grower will be significant and indicative of whether or not the Maritime growers are prepared to co-operate in relieving a surplus which is due to exceptionally good growing conditions during the past season."

Court Rules R.C.M.P. Is Military Organization

OTTAWA (CP)—The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in effect Thursday that the RCMP is a military organization with powers to enforce disciplinary measures within its ranks.

The judgment confirmed the conviction of former RCMP acting corporal John Robert Cunningham White in January, 1953, on four charges of conduct unbecoming a member of the force.

White, dismissed from the RCMP in March, 1953, was found guilty by a RCMP court headed by Supt. George J. Archer of Vancouver, of:

1. Condoning the consumption of liquor by a female juvenile;
2. Occupying a hotel room with a female juvenile;
3. Associating with a female of questionable character;
4. Counseling another member of the force to register at the hotel under an assumed name.

DECISION RESTORED
White was convicted and sentenced to a \$100 fine and reduction in rank to constable. He appealed to the British Columbia Supreme Court which dismissed a motion to have the case taken from RCMP hands and dealt with in the civil courts.

The B. C. court of appeals reversed the decision, ordering the civil courts to hear the case.

Supt. Archer, now on leave of absence from the RCMP and chief of the Vancouver city police, and the attorney general for Canada, appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court, consisting of Mr. Justice I. C. Rand of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice L. B. Dickson and Mr. Justice R. B. Lacombe, ruled in favour of the RCMP.

The court was divided 4-3. Chief Justice Patrick Kerwin, and Justices Robert Taschereau and R. L. Kellock concurred in Mr. Justice Rand's reasons.

French Gov't Ponders Troops For Algeria

PARIS (AP)—Premier Edgar Faure and his top aides in the middle of a hot election campaign, Thursday considered a request for 60,000 more troops to keep order in Algeria.

Nationalist terrorism mounted in the area, administered as part of France, and rebel propagandists preach facts saying worse was yet to come.

The call for reinforcements was made by resident-general Jacques Soustelle and got favorable consideration Wednesday at a meeting including Premier Faure and the government committee co-ordinating North African affairs.

However, Faure decided to send his top adviser, Jacques Duhamel, for a quick look at the Algerian situation before taking any decision.

DAMAGED ENGINE POSSIBLE

MONTREAL (CP)—Britain's jetliner Comet III may have damaged one engine in an early-morning flight in frigid temperatures here early Thursday, engineers reported Thursday night.

De Havilland engineers reported the experimental Comet—balked on the last lap of a globe-circling tour—will be flown to Toronto before making another attempt at an Atlantic crossing.

The statement came after the plane received a searching all-day study at nearby Dorval airport, where the Comet took off early Thursday for Britain, turning back when a fire-warning signal appeared on the instrument panel.

The four-engine machine was airborne less than an hour and landed on three engines without apparent difficulty.

The engineers' report—delivered by a de Havilland spokesman—seemed to follow the lines of a diagnostic made by pilot John Cunningham shortly after he landed the record-breaking aircraft.

The spokesman said "a fitting on a tail pipe failed, possibly due to the extreme cold here and consequent large temperature changes. This may have caused a little damage to No. 3 engine itself and if damaged a cowl, "Although there was no fire at all, this would account for the warning signal."

Final Lap Of Comet's Test Flight Is Delayed

In London, a British Overseas Airways Corporation spokesman said shortly after the incident occurred that a new engine may be flown from Britain for the plane, which is flying laboratory.

It took off shortly after 1 a.m. EST with pilot John Cunningham and 16 other persons aboard, including co-pilot Peter Bugge, navigator Robert Chandler, and 14 passengers, all but one of them Rolls-Royce Comet, a flying laboratory, studying the flight characteristics.

Cunningham, stressing that "nothing like this happened before" on the plane's record-breaking, globe-circling demonstration flight, said the fire-warning light appeared 1 1/2 minutes after the plane was airborne, bound for London non-stop.

He immediately shut off the engine and jettisoned surplus fuel—kerosene—in preparation for an immediate landing.

"This is what happened," said Cunningham. "We had begun our climb after take-off when the fire warning signal showed. It consists of a bell and four red lights, one for each of the engines."

"No. 3 light was on so I immediately closed throttle and shut off the engine. Then I radioed the control tower that I was coming back. . . . All this is standard procedure."

"We circled the Lake of Two Mountains, about 25 miles west of here, and released some fuel. . . . I would estimate we were at about 3,000 feet when we got rid of the fuel."

Cunningham, chief test pilot for de Havilland, said "at no time" were there any flames and at no time was the plane in danger of crashing.

He speculated that a bracket in the engine tail pipe or some other back of metal covering the engine may have cracked. There was a possibility that this brought about a leak of the jet stream, causing the warning light to flicker.

Cunningham speculated that the 15 degrees below zero temperature at Dorval airport might have caused a bracket to crack.

CEASE FIRE AGREEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaya (CP)—A cease-fire between government forces and Communist rebels will begin Friday night over about 400 square miles of northern Malaya where "peace talks" are scheduled to take place, the government announced Thursday. The cease-fire over the northern Malaya area will apply from Friday until 10 days after the meeting actually takes place.

NEW ENGINE BEING SENT

HATFIELD, England (Reuters)—The de Havilland Aircraft Company, makers of Britain's Comet III jet airliner which was forced to turn back after leaving Montreal for London today, announced Thursday night that a new engine is being sent to Canada.

The engine, flown by air freighter, is due at de Havilland's Toronto factory Friday night. John Cunningham, pilot of the stricken jet, is expected to fly to Toronto to take the Comet to Dorval. The aircraft probably will stay in Canada for about a week.

REPORT JOHN CHARGED

KARLSRUHE, Germany (AP)—The south German radio network said Thursday night Otto John, former German intelligence chief who fled to Communist East Germany and then returned, has been served with a warrant charging him with suspected spying.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEWSPRINT EXPANSION
HOBART, Australia, (Reuters)—Preliminary moves to expand Tasmania's wood pulp and newsprint industries will begin in February, Tasmanian Premier Robert Cosgrove said Wednesday night.

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SHARP PROTEST
WASHINGTON (AP)—Prime Minister Nehru of India has sent the United States a sharp note about State Secretary Dulles' recent reference to Goa as a province of Portugal.

PLANS WORLD TOUR
UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (Reuters)—UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold announced Thursday that he plans to make a round-the-world visit to capitals of 15 member countries early next year.

ROYAL HOLIDAY
WOLPERTON, England (AP)—The royal family arrived Thursday to spend Christmas at Sandringham, their Norfolk mansion. From Sandringham the Queen will make her traditional Christmas broadcast.

GARAGE BURNS
CORNER BROOK (AP)—Fire gutted the garage of West Park Motors here Thursday with loss estimated at close to \$100,000. The blaze started at 2 p.m. when gasoline being drained from a car ignited and exploded.

Regional forecasts:
Northern Nova Scotia: Cloudy, with snowflurries where the wind comes off the water; a little milder; west winds 15. Low-high at New Glasgow 10 below and 10 above.
Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick: Clear with a few cloudy intervals; milder; west winds 15. Low-high at Charlottetown 15 below and 15 above, Fredericton 15 below and 15 above, Saint John 10 below and 10 above, Edmundston 15 below and 15 above, Campbellton 11 below and 15 above.
Bay of Fundy: West winds 15, becoming light in the early morning; cloudy with scattered snowflurries; visibility 10 miles or more.
High tide today at Charlottetown at 4:23 a.m. and 4:41 p.m. Summer tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.
Sun rises at 7:49 a.m. and sets at 4:35 p.m.

MORE SHOPPING DAY

THERE IS ALWAYS ONE PERSON YOU FORGET TO GET A PRESENT FOR

TORONTO, (CP)—Temperatures issued by the public weather office:

	Min	Max
Dawson	22	25
Vancouver	36	40
Victoria	39	44
Edmonton	26	28
Calgary	25	32
Regina	18	20
Winnipeg	7	12
Montreal	15	18
Ottawa	23	25
Quebec	13	18
Fredericton	14	18
Saint John	9	15
Moncton	11	16
Halifax	7	10
Charlottetown	7	9
Sydney	1	3
Yarmouth	3	10
St. John's	10	11