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MEMBERS CRITICAL PARLIAMENT'S AUTHORITY USURPED

Trade Opportunities, Obstacles Viewed Farm Problems Emphasized Is Becoming Sounding Board For Government

Drops Hint Of Near Election

The possibility of a Provincial election in the not-distant future was hinted in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Premier A. W. Matheson.

Premier Matheson dropped the suggestion during an exchange with Mr. R. R. Bell, Q. C. Leader of the Opposition who was speaking on the Draft Address. The Leader of the Opposition was criticizing the Government for their lack of a Farm Loan Policy to help young people and immigrants to obtain loans to purchase farms.

"The Government would not set up my policy of a farm loan," stated Mr. Bell.

"It was voted down by the people," replied the Premier.

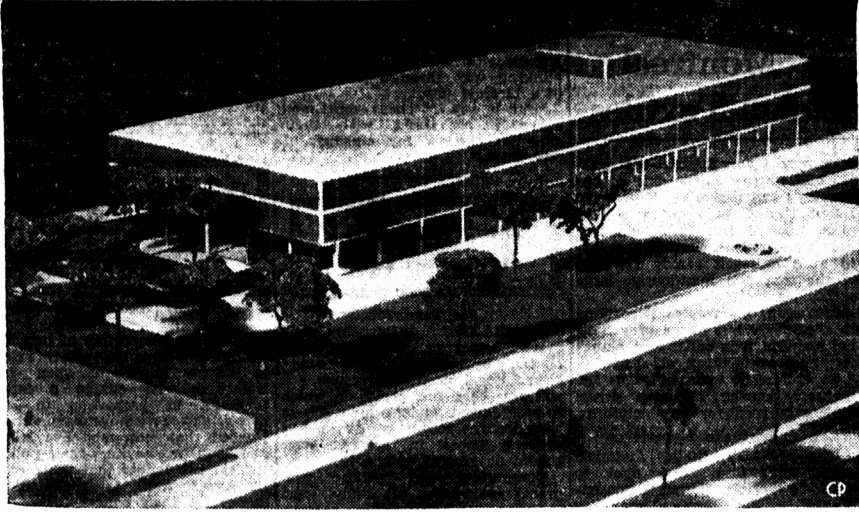
Mr. Bell: "Perhaps they might have a change of mind the next time they vote."

Premier Matheson: "They may get the chance sooner than you think."

Mr. Bell: "Is that an intimation of an election in the near future?"

Premier Matheson: "It might be!"

Model Of National Gallery



This is the architect's model of the proposed National Gallery of Canada which is to be built in Ottawa. Designed as a national centre of the arts for Canada, the cost of the proposed structure is estimated at about \$5,000,000. To be built on Sussex street, the building consists of three floors and a basement, and contains provision for expansion later. The design was submitted by the firm of Green, Blankstein, Russel and Associates of Winnipeg. It was selected from entries by 103 contestants. (CP Photo) 1954

White Settlers Fight Move For Mau Mau Peace

NAIROBI, Kenya, (Reuters) — Angry muttering by white settlers sharpened into an attack in the legislative council Thursday over the government's plan to negotiate with Mau Mau leaders through "General China", a captured terrorist chief.

The leader of elected white members of the legislative council, Michael Biundel, complained during a debate that he had not been consulted about the plan in his capacity as a member of the government's executive council.

He said he understood a small subcommittee of the executive council had dealt with the decision and said this was "complete nonsense."

He said that the record of "General China" was one of murder, robbery and arson, and the ordinary citizen would conclude the government had become a party to brutality, filthy oaths and murder by dealing with him.

One member, Humphrey Slade, declared: "Even if this unholy man surrenders and some terrorists do surrender, the price we shall have paid will have been too high."

E. H. Windley, member for African affairs, said the decision was taken by Governor Sir Evelyn Baring and commander-in-chief General Sir George Erskine after "the most careful consideration."

The heated debate ended without a vote.

News In Brief

OTTAWA, (CP)—A government-industry-labor conference on problems of the coal industry in the Maritimes will be held here March 12, Mines Minister Prudham announced Thursday.

HANOI, Indo-China, (AP) — French Army headquarters announced Thursday that tanks and infantry have broken out from the fortress of Dien Bien Phu in northwestern Indo-China in a heavy attack upon the Communist-led Viet Minh entrenched in encircling hill positions.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., (CP) — The sealing fleet, scheduled to sail next Saturday, was increased to five Thursday when Capt. Job Kean of Corner Brook, Nfld., decided to go north with his 70-ton vessel James Spurrell.

OTTAWA, (CP)—Mines Minister Prudham said Thursday he has asked the CNR to send an official to Westville, N.S., to see what can be done towards making Westville coal acceptable to the CNR.

FREDERICTON, (CP) — Despite a refusal of financial assistance by the federal government, the New Brunswick electric power commission plans to start work on the \$40,000,000 Beechwood hydro project on the St. John River next summer, the commission chairman, Hon. Edgar Fournier, announced in the legislature Thursday.

OTTAWA, (CP)—Canada's three destroyers in the Far East will be sent to Tokyo for four days next week during Prime Minister St. Laurent's visit to the Japanese capital.

QUEBEC, (CP)—Quebec's income tax bill was adopted 10-7 Thursday night by the legislative council after the government members had blocked a move by the Liberal Opposition to stall passing of the measure until the next session of the legislature.

WASHINGTON, (AP) — Defence Secretary Charles Wilson said on Thursday: "The idea that the army is coddling Communists is just damn myrot."

Wilson made that comment at a press conference when questioned about the statement by Senator Joseph McCarthy that "army brass" made a "sacred cow" of a "fifth amendment Communist."

McCarthy currently is investigating what he terms "army coddling of Communists."

Wilson was asked if he thought special legislation was necessary to rid the military establishment of Communists.

He replied he thought that might be "helpful, but I think I know how to get Communists out of the army" without legislation, "just

Queens Member Critical Of Film Board Transfer

OTTAWA, (CP)—A parliamentarian suggested Thursday night that government arguments to support transfer of national film board offices to Montreal from Ottawa also might be used to transplant the House of Commons.

J. Angus MacLean (PC—Queens) said in the Commons:

"If Ottawa is the capital in name, it should be the capital in fact."

He added that Works Minister Winters had advanced the argument that Montreal has the largest pool of "creative talent" in both the English and French languages.

The board produces films in both tongues.

Bus Drivers Vote To Return To Job In Saint John

SAINT JOHN, N. B., (CP) — Striking bus drivers and maintenance men who have tied up transportation in this city since Feb. 19 voted Thursday to return to work.

The buses are expected to start rolling again today under a settlement proposed by Saint John common council and accepted earlier by City Transit Ltd., operators of the bus system.

The offer provides a five-cent hourly wage boost on condition that city council approves a curtailed service. The increase is retroactive to Jan. 1 and council will make a grant to pay part of the back pay.

The 125 strikers, members of the Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America (AFL-TLC) went on strike mainly for a 10-cent hourly wage boost which the company said it couldn't afford.

Prior to the strike drivers made from \$1.00 to \$1.10 an hour and maintenance men received from 74 cents to \$1.29.

Declares U. S. Army Is Not Coddling Reds

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Harry Reece Found Guilty Of Murder

ST. CATHARINES, Ont., (CP) — Harry Reece, 48, was found guilty of murder Thursday night in the fatal stabbing Oct. 21 of 34-year-old Mrs. Florence Ricker who had formerly lived with him.

Mr. Justice W. Judson of the Ontario Supreme Court sentenced him to be hanged June 8.

The jury, which deliberated four hours, attached to its verdict a recommendation for mercy.

Mr. Justice Judson said the recommendation will be passed on immediately to the proper authorities.

Evidence was that the woman, formerly of Saint John, N. B., was knifed during a drinking party.

Coming Events

- *Crockinole Party in Wheatley River Hall tonight.
- *Red Skelton Comedy, Fredericton, March 6th, 8 p. m.
- *Hockey tonight, Forum, following ice sports. Covehead Flyers vs. Charlottetown Rockets.
- *Card party every Friday, St. Peter's Legion Hall, Dance Saturday.
- *Roland MacPherson will be loading hogs at Murray River on Tuesday, March 9th, Canada Packers Ltd., Charlottetown.
- *Showing at Mt Stewart Friday and Saturday, "Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie", Technicolor Drama starring David Wayne, Jean Peters and Hugh Marlowe.
- *A reminder, get your entries in before March 13th, for the debating competition and crokinole competition. Apply now, Box 9, Department of Agriculture, Charlottetown.

Potato Prices In Maine Seen At Record Low

AUGUSTA, Me., (AP) — Maine potato growers are getting probably the lowest price in history for their product, measured against the prices of things they buy.

Marketing chief George H. Chick of the state agriculture department said Thursday the current cash price to growers of 50 to 60 cents a barrel at Presque Isle is not as low as the bottom price reached in the early 1930's, when for three years the average price was around 65 to 70 cents a barrel and the low much less.

But production costs also were much less than now, and the buying power of the dollar considerably greater, Chick said.

"I see farmers get \$2 to \$2.50 a bushel to grow the potatoes last year, and another 15 to 20 cents to move a barrel to a shipping point. So the farmer actually gets between 30 and 45 cents a barrel. Last year the March 4 price to growers was \$2 to \$2.40 a barrel, and the low much less."

Business Men Discuss Problems At Montreal

By Forbes Rhube
MONTREAL, (CP) — A mixed picture of opportunities and obstacles in the sale of Canadian goods to other countries, Thursday threw the annual meeting of the Canadian council of the International Chamber of Commerce into a lively debate.

C. Bruce Hill, St. Catharines, Ont., industrialist, who declared that under the present American tariff set up an exporter can not tell what duty he will be charged asked:

"How can you sell goods in the United States when you don't know at what price you can lay them down?"

Up To Government

Referring to reviews of American market opportunities by representatives of the department of trade and commerce, Mr. Hill declared:

"I object to the statement that Canadian manufacturers don't get into the American market because we can't sell goods. We want the same terms of entry into the United States as American exporters receive into Canada. That is a diplomatic problem, and is up to the government."

L. H. Ausman, assistant director of the trade commissioner service of the department of trade and commerce, had reviewed possible opportunities in the American market and Mr. Hill felt he had "glossed over the real obstacle—the administration of the United States Customs Act."

Sees Fair Chance

Mr. Ausman had said in part: "It seems to me that some of our medium and larger-sized manufacturers stand a fair chance to sell their products, not necessarily on Fifth Avenue but along some of the hundreds of main streets from Maine to California."

"The Canadian showroom in Rockefeller Centre has confirmed us in Ottawa that there is a real demand in the United States for some of our goods."

Several delegates cited instances of what they considered unfair treatment under the American Customs Act, and Mr. Ausman suggested that such cases be taken up with the appropriate departments in Ottawa.

Views Nullified

Lloyd Neidinger, executive director of the United States council of ICC, thought there must have been misunderstanding in some of the views.

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De Valera Forecasts Early Election

DUBLIN, (Reuters)—Prime Minister Eamon De Valera called for a general election Thursday night after his Fianna Fail government party had failed in two by-elections to increase their slim majority of two in the Dail Eireann.

The opposition, Fine Gael, retained the seats at Cork City and Louth in the by-elections held Wednesday.

After a cabinet meeting, De Valera issued a statement that in view of the results a general election should be held as soon as measures for public services, now before the Dail, had been passed.

De Valera, frail but stormy leader of the Fianna Fail party, has headed the present government since June, 1951.

Canadian Cottons Loses \$904,000

CORNWALL, (CP)—L. C. Bonneycastle, president of Canadian Cottons Ltd., said here Wednesday his company has recorded a six-month operating loss of \$904,000 because of the textile industry slump. He added that losses were continuing at a higher rate.

In an address to staff supervisors of local mills, Mr. Bonneycastle, blamed the recession on three factors—loss of volume because of severe competition from American mills, the "inadequacy" of the tariff protection currently provided and the deterioration which has resulted from low-priced American imports.

Bonneycastle said steps taken by his company to meet existing conditions should bring about greater operating efficiency and production. Three mills have been closed by the firm, one at Milltown, N. B. and two in Cornwall.

Increased production at other company mills would result from production transfers from the closed mills, Mr. Bonneycastle said.

Comments On Marketing Board

While pointing out that he was not exactly criticizing the Potato Marketing Board, Mr. R. R. Bell, Q. C. Leader of the Opposition, stated in the Legislature yesterday afternoon: "We must face the fact that we cannot set the price for the rest of Canada and the United States in the potato industry."

"The Potato Marketing Board," he added, "is probably a good thing but it has caused much trouble and has been a serious problem. There used to be a Potato slogan that 'we will sell potatoes somewhere, sometime, somehow at any price.' As a result of it, upon very favorable conditions where the Potato Marketing Board is concerned."

He stated that Mr. Roland MacDonald, President of the federation in his report at the Federation's annual meeting had said: "The task of straightening out the Marketing Board did not meet with the desired results."

Hon. B. Earle MacDonald, Minister of Health and Welfare, asked if he thought there should be a Board.

"That's quite a question," replied Mr. Bell.

The Leader of the Opposition stated there was too much bickering and trouble between the dealer and producer. "They should get together and work out something amicably to bring every last cent into the industry. There are dealers in the Province who have been in the industry for years and whose views should be heard."

Molotov Levels Blast At U. S.

MOSCOW, (AP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov, in a long statement published on the anniversary of Stalin's death, said today that the United States is "brazenly" claiming the leadership of the world.

The "practical expression" of this aspiration, he said, was the North Atlantic pact which was concluded in 1947 by Hitler Germany, militarist Japan and Fascist Italy.

"There are no grounds for doubting that the fate of the North Atlantic pact will be no better than the fate of the 'anti-Comintern pact,' he said.

Is Acquitted In Murder Trial

SUDBURY, Ont., (CP)—An Ontario Supreme Court jury Thursday acquitted Robert Deslauriers of Montreal on a charge of murdering Frank Asselin Oct. 3.

The verdict was delivered after four hours and two minutes of deliberation by the jury.

"You are a lucky man," said Mr. Justice R. W. Treleavan. "You don't know whether the verdict of this jury is the correct one."

Two companions of Deslauriers—Jean Guy Henaire and Emil Bedard—also of Montreal—last week in a separate trial were convicted of Asselin's murder and were sentenced to be hanged May 12.

Deslauriers, 28, denied in testimony Wednesday that he participated in the beating that led to the bushworker's death.

He accused Henaire and Bedard of beating Asselin.

Consumer Price Index Is Reported Unchanged

OTTAWA, (CP)—The consumer price index remained unchanged at 115.7 during January.

Food prices edged ahead slightly, but the shelter column, which includes rents, remained unchanged for the first time in many months, the Bureau of Statistics reported today.

The consumer price index is based on 1949 prices equaling 100. Before the January freeze, the yardstick had declined three months in a row, each successive drop smaller than the other.

Higher prices for coffee and pork products outweighed a push other scattered decreases to push the food column up one-tenth of a point to 111.7, first rise in five months.

Shelter remained at the peak of 125.4 established in December.

Another tenth-of-a-point rise showed in the column "other commodities and services" which increased to 116.5. Higher prices for hospital room rates, soap and taxi fares offset lower prices for automobile tires.

The household operations column also remained fixed at the December peak of 117.5. Price declines for appliances, furniture and textiles were balanced by other scattered advances.

The clothing column dropped by one-tenth of a point to 110 as prices eased for men's and women's wear.

The January index level of 115.7 compares with the all-time high of 118.2 recorded in December, 1951.

Bank Act Introduced

The Commons also gave first reading to Finance Minister Abbott's massive bill embodying the decennial revision of Canada's Bank Act.

On the salaries issue, the Progressive Conservatives moved that the proposal be knocked out of Mr. Lapointe's resolution preliminary to the royal tour Act bill.

In an informal vote the motion of Col. A. J. Brooks (PC—Royal) was defeated by 65 to 41.

Government supporters voted solidly against it. They were joined

Polio Outbreaks Force Changes In Royal Tour

MELBOURNE, Australia, (CP)—State Transport Minister Patrick Coleman announced Thursday that polio outbreaks have forced a change in the itinerary of a two-day tour of Victoria state by Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

This announcement, a few hours before the scheduled beginning of the visit, was followed by a statement from the royal train that the Queen had approved modification of her Western Australian tour later this month, for the same reason.

Coleman said the royal couple would not be exposed to residents of two country towns, Castlemaine and Maryborough, where polio has been reported.

Instead, the minister announced, the blue and gold royal train will only slow down as it passes through both these farming centres in the north-west of the state.

Coleman said the government reached this decision after receiving advice from the health ministry, which urged there be no congregation of children at either Castlemaine or Maryborough.

This announcement came after a day of urgent talks in Melbourne over proposed changes in the Queen's itinerary in Western Australia, where 114 polio cases have been reported.

Track Cracked

Both the Queen and the Duke have been given injections of gamma globulin serum to strengthen their resistance to polio.

The royal train spent the night in a siding at Goorambat, Northern Victoria, after travelling up from Melbourne, the state capital. A 500-mile tour of northern and central districts in Victoria began early today.

Thursday night tour officials spent an anxious time as the royal train passed over a dangerous stretch where a crack 18 inches long was found in the track during the day.

Is Becoming Sounding Board For Government

OTTAWA, (CP)—Parliament's authority has become "nothing more than a memory and a fiction," John Diefenbaker said Thursday in the Commons.

The Progressive Conservative member for Prince Albert, Sask., said the Commons is being reduced to a sounding board for the government.

Mr. Diefenbaker was one of several opposition members criticizing a government proposal to give cabinet authority to fix salaries of members of the Canadian pension commission. This now is done by parliamentary statute.

The salary plan is one of a number of moves proposed in amendments to veterans' pensions legislation placed before the House by Veterans Minister Lapointe. Other provisions in the legislation—the chief one being that adopted children of veterans are eligible for pension benefits—met with general approval.

Queen and Duke Will Visit, or Receive 'Whistle-stop' Welcomes at 17 Places on This Two-day-up-country Tour

At the University of Melbourne Thursday, the Duke was "ragged" by students who unrolled a multi-colored carpet and presented him with a pair of crutches and a bouquet of peppermint walking-sticks. They also gave him a big hand—the minute hand they had taken from a prominent city clock in a foray a year ago.

IF I HAD TO DANCE FOR PAY I'D STRIKE FOR MORE MONEY



TORONTO, (CP) — Minimum and maximum temperatures:

| | | |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Toronto | 12 | 21 |
| Lewiston | 30 | 50 |
| Vancouver | 30 | 50 |
| Victoria | 30 | 50 |
| Edmonton | 16 | 44 |
| Calgary | 7 | 41 |
| Regina | 9b | 23 |
| Winnipeg | 13b | 23 |
| Ottawa | 12 | 23 |
| Montreal | 11 | 15 |
| Quebec | 16 | 20 |
| Saint John | 21 | 41 |
| Moncton | 32 | 45 |
| Halifax | 35 | 44 |
| Charlottetown | 31 | 44 |
| Sydney | 24 | 30 |
| Yarmouth | 33 | 33 |
| St. John's | 37 | 47 |

HALIFAX, (CP)—The Dominion Public Weather Office here says a large mass of cold air covers the central part of the continent and fine, cold weather is expected for several days.

Regional forecasts:
Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick: Variable cloudiness with a few snowflurries; much colder; west winds 20. Low-high at Charlottetown 15 and 25, Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John 10 and 25, Edmundston and Campbell 5 and 20.
Bay of Fundy: West winds 15 with variable cloudiness and a few snowflurries; visibility 10 miles, except briefly two miles in flurries, colder.
High tide today at Charlottetown at 11:08 a. m. and 11:12 p. m. Summerside tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown. Sun rises today at 6:45 a. m. and sets at 6:05 p. m.