

Canada Keeps Out Of Asian Pact, Indo-China War

OTTAWA, (CP) — Canada has made it plain to its allies that it does not intend to participate in a Southeast Asia pact or become involved, for the present at least, in the Indo-China war.

Officials said Friday the government believes it has extended itself as far as possible in making overseas commitments. The armed forces now are heavily committed in Europe and increased attention is being paid to continental defence.

It is understood here that when the 25th Canadian Brigade is eventually moved out of Korea, it won't be moved anywhere but home.

Though the government doesn't want to enter the current dispute between the United Kingdom and the United States, officials say privately that the U. S. would be silly to go ahead with a Southeast Asia pact without Britain.

Britain doesn't want to begin formation of a Southeast Asia anti-Communist pact until after the Geneva conference at least. The Canadian government agrees with the view and believes that Australia and New Zealand couldn't be enthusiastic about a Southeast Asia alliance with Britain excluded.

SEES TALKS CONTINUING

"It's an awful situation at Geneva," one authority said. "But at least we're still talking and that's something. I personally believe the conference will go on for some time yet."

In present circumstances, the only way Canada could make a military contribution in Indo-China could be to increase the size of

Mysterious Crater Lake in Labrador



This is an aerial view of a mysterious crater lake rimmed with rock in the wilderness of northern Labrador, a strange apple green in color, which will be explored this summer by an eight-man expedition. The expedition will be sponsored jointly by Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum of Geology and Mineralogy and by the National Geographic Society of the United States and assisted by the U. S. air force. The lake, about 40 miles west of Hebron mission, is perfectly round. Scientists think it may have been caused by a meteor smashing into the earth, perhaps millions of years ago.—(CP Photo).

the armed forces or defence appropriations or, most likely, both. Defence Minister Claxton said Thursday he would like to cut defence appropriations from the current \$2,000,000,000 a year.

The armed forces—112,000—now are about as large as possible without peacetime conscription. The government considers it is

at least playing some part in the struggle between democratic and Communist forces in Asia by contributing \$25,000,000 to the Colombo plan for economic aid to South and Southeast Asia.

For the time being at least, this is as far as Canada is prepared to go in Asian commitments, economic or military.

New Rail Line For Quebec Is Debated In House

OTTAWA, (CP) — The government was told Wednesday that Toronto's financial interests will benefit from the decision to tap Quebec's rich Chibougamau mining area with a rail line from the west.

Transport Minister Chevrier reported that the argument is fallacious and that there is no doubt that Chibougamau also will be linked by rail with Lake St. John to the east.

The Commons debate centred on a bill authorizing construction of a 294-mile line of the Canadian National Railways to develop the mineral and forest wealth of the Chibougamau District, some 350 miles northwest of Quebec City.

Members also dealt with legislation amending the Veterans Land Act, providing for vocational training of disabled civilians and continuing the powers of transport control for movement of bulk commodities.

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The CNR rail line will extend in an arc from Beatierville, near Abitibi on the border of northern Ontario, northeast of Chibougamau and then southeast to St. Felicien, on the west side of Lake St. John at the head of the Saguenay valley.

The railway bill was given second reading—approval in principle.

Howard Green (PC—Vancouver-Quadra) said the decision may make Chibougamau a tributary of Toronto's financial interests. Noranda, where Chibougamau ores would be smelted, was linked directly by rail with Toronto.

He was joined by several Quebec members from the Lake St. John area in urging that both sections—not the western section—be built at the same time.

Paul Gagnon (Ind.-Chicoutimi) said that if the western section is built first "you will have a railway started at the wrong end, whose usefulness will benefit the financiers of Toronto first and the people of Quebec later."

CHEVRIER BLASTS CRITICS

Mr. Chevrier accused critics of the plan with playing politics. "This isn't a political question. It is a question of economics, pure and simple."

The CNR traffic had guaranteed for six years on the western section of 30,000 cords of pulpwood a year and a daily average of 325 tons of ore concentrates. There were no traffic guarantees for the eastern section.

The western section could be started at once. When that was done, the CNR would have to see what assurances there were for

British Historian Says Churchill Confused Cmdrs.

LONDON, (AP) — An official British historian says in the first volume of his sea history of the Second World War, published Wednesday that, Prime Minister Churchill fired off too many messages at British sea commanders and confused them.

Capt. S. W. Roskill of the Royal Navy writes that Churchill's messages increased the navy's difficulties, especially during the hard-fought Norwegian campaign. One flag officer protested he had been given three different objectives.

"Many of the signals sent during such periods bear the unmistakable imprint of his language and personality. Admirable though their purpose and intentions were, it now appears plain that they sometimes confused the conduct of operations and increased the difficulties of the commander in chief."

When the Royal Navy was seeking to block Hitler's seizure of Norway in April, 1940, Churchill was first lord of the admiralty. A month later he succeeded Neville Chamberlain as prime minister.

Potato Growers In B.C. Disturbed By U. S. Supplies

OTTAWA, (Special) — Potato growers of British Columbia are deeply disturbed over the competition they are forced to meet from growers of California and other Pacific coastal states. They have voiced their anxiety over this condition to F. G. J. Hain, Social Credit member for New Westminster and asked him to approach the federal government on the issue.

That there is some reason for their concern over American competition was made clear today in a return tabled in the Commons by State Secretary Pickersgill. Far from moderate shipments of new potatoes into British Columbia, there have been large shipments every month of the past fiscal year. From March 31, 1953 to March, 31 1954, B.C.'s potato imports have totalled 14,000 tons and are valued at about \$570,000. Total customs duty paid on these shipments is listed at \$13,000.

Earlier this week, British Columbia members of the Commons and Senate voiced anxiety at the increasing imports of American and turkey raisers from the North Pacific states to the detriment of local turkey-raisers. It is not considered likely that the federal government will take action unless it has proof that either subsidies or substantial support prices are paid by state or the U. S. government on these products. The Department of Agriculture however, may make an investigation to determine the relative production costs of growing potatoes and raising turkeys in British Columbia and its neighboring sections of the United States.

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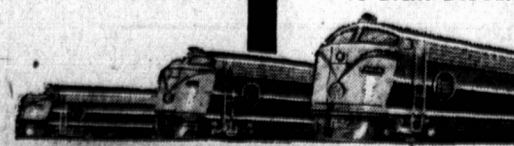
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