

MONDAY

Stiff Competitive Battle Looms Among Canadian Builders And Suppliers

By Forbes Rhude
Canadian Press Business Editor

The coming year promises a stiff competitive battle among Canadian builders and suppliers. This prospect could be seen both in the public statements and private conversations of delegates in Vancouver this week for the Canadian Construction Association's annual meeting.

Ask construction men if they expect trouble this year and many will say "yes."

Press further, however, and ask if they expect to be as busy as last year and they will probably again say "yes."

This seems to boil down to plenty of problems but probably continuation of high activity. Convention expressions seemed to indicate that Canadian needs for new construction in many fields are sufficient to keep the industry busy, but that prices must be "right" if the building is to be done.

"Need" More Pressing

This situation follows a long period when "need" was, in large measure, more pressing than "price."

The competitive battle which seems to be developing should bring some interesting developments. The contractor or supplier bidding for a job will be using his utmost ingenuity to devise ways of keeping his price below that of his competitor, and at the same time make a fair profit.

Some construction men seem to

feel some of the quotations already being made on upcoming jobs offer no opportunity for a fair profit. However, it would seem reasonable to assume that the situation will bring a lot of thinking on new methods and materials and provide increasing drive in that direction.

It does nothing else, the situation should provide a strong brake on any higher-price inflation which may develop, such as from a bigger money supply for housing.

The OCA reported that basic costs—wage rates and material prices—rose between one and two per cent last year, the smallest increase since the war, predicted "general stability" for the coming year, and said the material supply situation was excellent.

Peak Reached

John N. Flood, of Saint John, N.B., retiring president, said 1953 was a record-breaker for construction and stability in construction costs and volume seems likely for 1954.

R. G. Johnson, president of Defence Construction 1951 Ltd., said the peak of the present defence construction program was reached in 1952 \$220,000,000 but he seemed to think that this year's program would be at about the level of last year \$135,000,000.

Such statements as these seem to give little basis for views of serious concern sometimes expressed. But they don't deny the competitive battle which is going on.

Saskatoon Benefits From Gas Piped From Alberta

SASKATOON, (CP)—Natural gas has come to Saskatoon and, according to its sponsors, is cutting household heating costs.

About 4,000 city homes and commercial buildings are being heated with natural gas flowing through a 107-mile pipeline from Brock, Sask., near the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. Six hundred additional contracts a month are expected to be issued this year.

The cost to Saskatoon residents is about 2 1/2 times that paid by residents of Alberta cities, where gas heating has been common for years. The Saskatoon home-owner pays about \$8.80 for the first 10,000 cubic feet, against about \$4.65 paid by the Edmonton household.

About 7,500 of the 15,000 Saska-

toon home-owners and small business firms applied to take gas when the Saskatchewan government proposed the pipeline last summer.

Most applications in Saskatoon, a city of 33,000 population, were made with an eye to benefits provided by an offer by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, a provincial government agency given control of distribution of natural gas. The corporation offered a free service line into homes for the first year.

The pipeline was driven through from Brock soon after the 7,500 applications flooded in, well exceeding the SPC target. Also linked to the line are the towns of Rosetown and Delisle and the villages of Netherhill and Cole-

Europe Shivers From Icy Winds Of Cold Siberia

LONDON (AP)—The worst cold wave in six years gripped Britain as icy winds from Siberia, where temperatures fell to 53 below zero, today swept most of shivering Europe.

Still-colder weather with gales and blizzards is forecast in many countries where the three-day freeze-up has crippled seaport and river transport and marred road and rail traffic.

Scores have died from the effects of cold and traffic pile-ups on icy roads. The Arctic blast dipped south to Italy, where a 22-year-old man died in Turin. In Holland, all shipping on the Zuider Zee was paralyzed by thick ice. Floating ice halted shipping on the main river in West Germany for more than 10 miles. Vital canals linking the industrial Ruhr with the north sea ports were frozen up to five inches.

Moscow radio reported a low of -53 at Yakutsk in central Siberia. It was 12 below in Moscow and sharp frosts and wintry weather stretched as far south as the Crimea.

Temperatures as low as four above were recorded early today in southern England's Hampshire county. The mercury dipped to 16 in London's suburbs, the coldest since 1947. Snow and ice covered many roads in the western half of England.

ville and more towns are expected to be added this year.

Record mild temperatures of fall and early winter prevented an accurate comparison of costs with fuel oil and coal.

The first bills received indicated that a five-room house could be heated by gas for about \$3 monthly in average early-winter weather. The biggest savings were in water-heating.

Oil Sales High

Fuel oil dealers said a survey showed their sales to be as high as at the same period in 1952. The dealers disputed a SPC claim that gas would produce a 25 per cent saving on fuel oil costs.

They added that when the cost of conversion is taken into account, there would be no saving whatsoever. Most Saskatoon residents purchased new burners, although converted burners can be installed in present equipment at smaller cost.

The advent of natural gas has not yet had any visible effect on the city's industrial situation, but gas will be available to industry at much lower prices and on an interruptible basis until a steady flow from the Brock field is indicated.

At peak winter periods, services to industry could be interrupted at a moment's notice. Most Saskatoon firms have maintained other heating equipment at a standby.

Dark Lightning

By Helen Topping Miller

Synopsis

Gary Tallman, young petroleum engineer from Alabama, misses his bus to San Antonio. Mona Mason, wife of a cattle rancher, is injured when her car crashes into a ditch, and the Masons nurse him back to health. Gary falls in love with Mrs. Mason's twenty-one-year-old daughter, Adelaide, but, embarrassed by lack of funds, he feels that he must be on his way to Mexico. He suspects there is oil on the Mason land, and Harvey Mason insists that he stay until a test is made.

CHAPTER VII (Continued)

"Addie, did you have to buy three hats? You know how upset your father is..."

"I'm upset, too, Mother—I had to do something. Adelaide tossed her bundles on the bed indifferently. "Mother, did you ever feel—as though men made you simply sick!"

All women feel that way—often enough. And I suppose the men get disgusted with us, too—no body could blame them if they did. Did you and Gary have a fight?"

Adelaide's eyelids were uncertain for a minute but her mouth and chin were grim. "I wouldn't fight with him. If he wants to go to Mexico—if he's so set on going—by all means let him go."

Mona Lee sank on the edge of the little rocker and put her hands together patiently. It was just then that she had the wicked thought that she should have opened the car door and pushed Gary Tallman out that day. Even if he did look like little Phil. Even if he were in love with Addie—and he was, she knew it. It was in his eyes and his voice—odd, that Adelaide couldn't see it—or had she? Certainly she didn't look happy now. Not as a girl ought to look whose family might strike oil—and who had just bought three new hats. Gary was a nice boy—but he had a grim chin, too.

She said gently, "Try them on, honey. I want to see how you look in them."

"Oh, they're sort of crazy," Adelaide unlied the strings without enthusiasm. "You'll think they're awful, probably. And I suppose Dad will whoop."

She put on one of the hats—a frivolous, small thing with a tiny bouquet in front, and a big bow underneath on her hair and a foolish scrap of a veil. "Well—go on and laugh now, darling!" She turned from the mirror. "I know how silly it is. But I adore it!"

"I don't think it's silly. I think it's cute. And that blue suit you exactly. Go down and show your father."

"They're busy with that old map now. I'll show them later."

"Addie, I've never talked to you much. I've always thought that people nagged their children too much, so I've tried to let mine be as free as air. But if—"

But Adelaide was not listening. She had tripped off downstairs dressed up in the green outfit, and Mona Lee heard her voice, bright and challenging. "I don't suppose you two oil fiends could look away from that map for an instant—not even to look at a handsome woman!"

Mona Lee sighed with relief. Whatever was wrong was not a heartbreak, anyway. It was nice to be young.

CHAPTER VIII

The geophysical crew arrived on Friday, and Mona Lee thought them a particularly grim and unfriendly lot. They said nothing except polite evasions; they treated Gary Tallman with condescension and Harvey they ignored till he took to stamping around the bedroom at night and barking.

"I can't get a thing out of 'em. I don't count. They go out there and monkey around and get into their cars and drive off, and never even look back. I'm just the fellow who owns the land. I'm the fellow who pays their bills."

Mona Lee tried to mollify him. "But Gary says they won't talk till they know. They've got to be definite, Harvey. They've got reputations to think about."

"Looks like it takes a long time for them to find out anything. Gary knew there was oil there the minute he looked at the place."

"Gary didn't know any such thing. He told you a hundred times he wasn't sure."

"I've got a notion to hire some riggers and put me a well down anyway. Those guys can't see through the ground. They've got to guess—same as I have."

He bumbled and tramped around like an uneasy lion. Adelaide was all over the place—like a hornet, her mother thought wearily. Even Gary, Mona Lee could see, was caught up a little in the persuading and settling.

And then at last the three men drove away, and the Masons sat in a number circle in the dining room and looked at each other with a sort of stunned incredulity in their eyes.

And Gary, back in a corner, very

Deposed Sultan Accused In Death Of Concubines

RABAT, Morocco, (Reuters)—Five unhappy concubines in the harem of the deposed sultan of Morocco were whipped and tortured to death because the sultan suspected them of unfaithfulness, according to charges filed with police here.

Evidence now in the hands of police indicates that the banished Sidi Mohammed ben Youssef was a jealous lover who kept tight watch over his intrigue-studded harem. Police said he would order floggings for the slightest reason and flew into a rage at any sign he had been deceived.

The charges were filed by a brother of one of the alleged victims. Police said they are attempting to obtain evidence from others subjected to maltreatment by the ex-sultan before they take formal action.

The sultan, banished by French authorities last August for nationalist sympathies, now is in Madagascar en route to a distant place of exile. His three legitimate wives and 20 of his concubines are expected to accompany him there, but the youngest and prettiest members of his harem declined to go with him when he was ousted.

A few weeks ago the wife of a former servant in the Sultan's palace charged that the former ruler had her husband whipped to death because he made love to a harem favorite.

Locked In Dungeon

The new charges rack back to 1940 when reports of adultery among the indolent and restless women of the harem reached the sultan's ears. In a fury he ordered five girls locked in a dark dungeon and imprisoned the men suspected in the case in under-

ground cells of his Marrakesh palace.

Floggings were ordered when the Sultan learned the concubines were scratching at the walls of their dungeon in a desperate effort to escape. All five of the women and one male prisoner died under the beatings, the charges say.

The ex-sultan maintained harems in palaces in various parts of Morocco, stocked largely with young girls presented as gifts from chiefs or recruited by the sultan's own staff in rural areas.

The women passed their time in an atmosphere of indolence and vented their boredom by intrigues against the sultan's favorites. Despite the abundance of concubines police say their evidence shows that Ben Youssef kept a special corps of 11 servants to inflict the whipping at any hint of unfaithfulness. He was often a spectator himself as the hapless concubines or servants were flogged, police said.

silent, looked at them and wondered why he had been impulsive enough to do this thing to these pleasant people—to toss change and commotion like a snarling wildcat into the quiet pool of their lives?

"Oil—it was there! Science said so. Oil! They looked at each other with awe in their faces and something a little fearful. Harvey broke the silence at last. "Well, if it isn't there, it ought to be. It cost enough to find out." He looked ruefully at the stub of the check he had written.

(Continued)

Varying Press Reaction To Anglo-Jap Trade Pact

LONDON, (AP)—The British press took a sharp look today at the new billion-dollar financial agreement with Japan, but only the empire-minded Daily Express denounced the pact outright.

The agreement, renewing one which expired at the end of 1953, opens Britain's doors to Japanese imports such as toys and cottons and rayon goods which have not been admitted since the war.

The Express said the agreement represents a "shameful short-sighted policy. It is a bad pact and a black pact for this country and her colonies."

"The doors of the colonial empire are flung wide open. Japan will be free to send some \$200,000,000 worth of cheap goods to the colonies, thus hampering efforts now being made to develop colonial industries."

The Daily Sketch, which supports the Conservative government, said parliamentary questions about the government's policy may be expected at once. Some, said The Sketch, will treat the pact as the "thin end of a wedge"—a prelude to a greater onrush of Japanese manufactured goods. This eventually might undercut Britain's industry and cause unemployment, the paper warned.

Second Look Reassures

The Times, independent, said that at first sight the agreement

might revive old, well-founded fears of Japanese competition.

"Second thoughts, however, may correct this impression," the paper declared. "Japan and her neighbors form a trading area which for sterling countries is second in importance only to the North American continent, and by widening the use of sterling there, these arrangements can promote its restoration to its former position as the world's trading currency. The whole sterling area can thus benefit."

The Financial Times, which reflects thinking in London business circles, called the new agreement a price Britain must pay if the sterling area is to avoid a big drop in its export trade with Japan.

The Manchester Guardian, Liberal newspaper published in the heart of Britain's cotton industry area, said the agreement would hardly be popular in Lancashire—"but all the same the government has a pretty good case, and its critics would be well advised to study it."

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Breadalbane and Vicinity

Mr. William Halliwell, Stanchel, was a visitor to Breadalbane, on January 22.

Miss Vaunda Todd, visited her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Todd, Rose Valley, on January 22.

Rev. and Mrs. John MacKay, were guests of Mr. MacKay's mother, Mrs. Hugh F. MacKay on January 26.

Mrs. Donald MacKay, and daughter, Bethany, Elliotts, were guests of Mrs. Hugh F. MacKay, on January 25.

Mrs. Lorne Cousins, and his daughter Hughena, were visitors to Breadalbane, during the week of January 25.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewen Todd, Breadalbane, were among those who attended the turkey supper which the ladies of Springton Women's Institute sponsored at the home of Mrs. Ewen Lamont, Springton, on January 22.

Mr. and Mrs. James Snowie and daughter Linda, moved to Clifton, on January 22. Mr. Snowie, who operates one of the government snow plows, will be employed in

Gouzenko Says Zaroubin Man To Be Watched

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Igor Gouzenko, the Soviet embassy code clerk who tipped off authorities to a spy ring in Canada, has tagged George K. Zaroubin, Soviet ambassador to the United States, as a man to be watched.

Gouzenko was interviewed in Canada by columnist Drew Pearson. The interview was filmed for television use and the transcript made public here Friday.

Pearson brought out in his questioning that Zaroubin was ambassador to Canada while Gouzenko before his desertion in 1945, was handling coded intelligence messages to Moscow.

Gouzenko spoke of the Soviet espionage organization in Canada and said Zaroubin "knew about the general set-up, he didn't know, of course, about details."

Pearson asked, "would you consider him a dangerous man to have in Washington...?"

"I would suggest to watch him, to be careful," Gouzenko replied. "Gouzenko wore a mask during the interview. Pearson explained "his life is constantly in danger. The exact location of the interview was not disclosed. Gouzenko whereabouts have been kept secret since he went under Canadian protection."

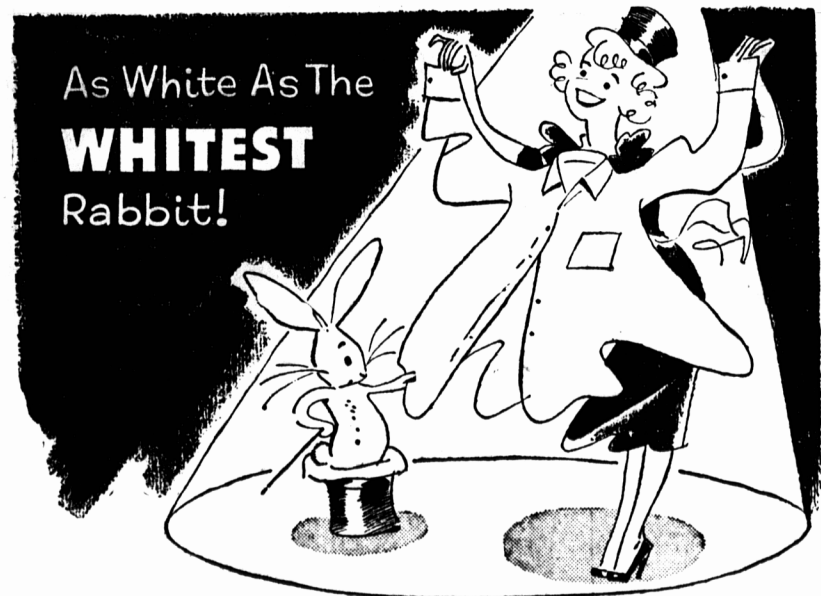
Most of the interview reviewed Gouzenko's story, told during the Canadian spy investigation, of how Soviet espionage operated and how he broke with the embassy and got in touch with Canadian authorities.

that vicinity during the winter months.

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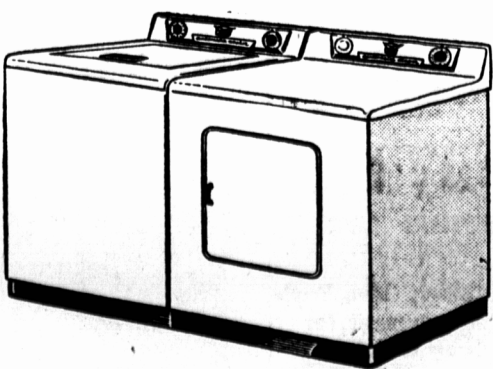
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