

Entertainment Business Slumps In England

LONDON, Feb. 6 — (Reuters) — More than 15,000 actors, actresses and musicians—or one in three in the British entertainment business—are out of work in Britain. Their plight is blamed on a big slump in the entertainment world.

Three unions, Variety Artists Federation, Equity and the Musicians Union, with a combined membership of 40,000, say that the entertainment business is overcrowded.

"Every year about 1,000 actors and actresses are turned out by the dramatic schools," a spokesman for Equity said. "Unfortunately there are not enough plays for them owing to a slump in the theatre."

Most unemployed actors are found in the West End of London. Every Friday queues of well-dressed young men and women who used to earn up to £25 a week line up outside the labor exchanges to draw unemployment pay.

Many find temporary evening employment. One of London's biggest ice cream factories is at present employing large numbers of out-of-work male actors at night.

The girls usually find temporary work as night waitresses at dance halls.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 — (AP) — Actress June Havoc, wife of the producer William Slier and star of the Broadway comedy "Affairs of State," suffered a miscarriage between acts of Saturday's matinee and now is confined in New York hospital. The hospital said Miss Havoc was "doing very well." Her secretary said she had been "ill for over a month."

Death Toll In Plane Crash At Tower Up To Six

CARMAN, Man., Feb. 6 — (CP) — Three steel workers, trapped on a tottering radio tower, were killed early Tuesday when the 570-foot mast snapped in two, broke clear of its moorings and slammed to earth. The men were repairing damage done when an R.C.A.F. plane rammed the tower yesterday, killing all three airmen aboard.

Working in the glare of a searchlight, the steel workers made a midnight ascent inside the three-sided tower, belonging to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Manitoba station, CBW.

Minutes later, as a stiff wind blew up, the light on the mast-head swayed, there was a loud grinding noise and a 250-foot top section crashed to the frozen earth. The remainder of the 30-ton steel structure—resembling a pencil standing on its point—snapped at the base and fell at right angles to the first section.

The victims were Ronnie Erickson, 19, of Tyndall, Man.; Walter Burtynk, 28, of Winnipeg and Jack Dyck of the Grunthal district.

Names of the victims of the airplane crash were released today. They were PO Charles Chow-Leong, 29, of Lethbridge, Alta.; acting PO Peter Frederick Harvey, 20, of Woodlands, Isleham, Cambridgehire, England, and acting PO Edward Scanlan, 18, of Chiswick, London W4, England.

The plane, from No. 2 Air Navigation School at Winnipeg, fouled a guy wire of the slender mast at noon yesterday, nudged the tower itself and crashed in flames in a nearby field.

The station continued to broadcast until 12:05 a. m. today when the top of the tower was found to be swaying in a wide arc as it was buffeted by a north wind.

Young Erickson, son of a steel worker, was the first to scramble up the narrow ladder inside the tower. The others followed at 50-foot intervals. A dozen others watched from the ground.

Erickson apparently felt the tower start to go and clambered to the outside near the 500-foot level. He was hurled clear as the \$75,000 mast crumbled. The other men were trapped inside.

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CANUCKS IN GERMANY HAS A "FIELD DAY"

The incomparable Grace Fields, who entertained thousands of Canadians during World War II, recently left her home in Capri to perform for Canadians stationed in Hanover, Germany. Shown with the British comedienne are: Rtn. Bill Geddes, Winnipeg; Cpl. R. R. Luttrell, Toronto, and Pte. R. Gilman, Montreal.

New Peak Reached In Business By Great West Life

WINNIPEG, Feb. 6 — Great-West Life's total business in force reached \$1,891,000,000 at the end of 1951. H. W. Manning, Vice-President and Managing Director, announced to the sixtieth annual meeting here today.

More than \$293,000,000 of new life insurance and annuities was placed during the year. Assets now total \$415,000,000 and represent the resources of 515,000 policyholders. During 1951, the Company paid \$34,000,000 to policyholders and beneficiaries.

"The very favorable mortality experience among the Company's policyholders continued during the year," Mr. Manning declared, "and actually showed a slight improvement over the level of 1950." He also reported that the gross rate of interest rose during the year and reached 3.82 per cent. This represents the third consecutive year in which the interest rate has risen.

Joseph Harris, in his Presidential address, commented on the proposed extension of government annuities and said, in part, "The Canadian Government, operating in a field that is already well served by private enterprise, has been offering annuities to the general public which in no way reflect the true cost that is being incurred. Both the costs of administration and the substantial operating losses have been met from public funds. This in itself would suggest elimination of such a function, not extension. Increasing the limits available would further aggravate this condition."

Growing Stature

Mr. Harris welcomed the elimination of foreign exchange controls and said, "It indicates the growing financial stature of Canada and will do much to stimulate freer trade."

The sale of group insurance and group annuities was 22 per cent higher than last year and totalled \$107,900,000. Group business in force kept pace with this expansion of new business and rose to \$462,000,000 at the end of the year. Group business now forms over 24 per cent of the Company's total business in force. The Company administers the welfare plans of 1,500 organizations, who, together, have more than 250,000 employees.

Assets increased \$28,000,000 during the year and now total \$415,000,000. The Company's holdings of corporate securities increased \$20,000,000 during the year and now total \$125,000,000. These investments were made after a careful screening to determine the degree to which they support our economy, increase production, or strengthen our defense industries. This policy—a voluntary one—is supported by other major financial groups and is aimed at combating inflation by strengthening our productive capacity.

In commenting on the rise in the general interest rate level, Mr. Manning stated, "This heartening rise comes after a long period of artificially depressed interest rates and is most welcome since it will, in time, have an important cumulative effect upon the cost of in-

Believes Russians Massacred 10,000 Polish Soldiers

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 — (AP) — Col. John H. Van Vliet, author of a long-missing secret report on the Katyn Forest massacre in the Second World War, testified today he believes the Russians themselves slaughtered upwards of 10,000 Polish soldiers in a Soviet prison camp in 1940.

Soviet propaganda has long sought to pin the blame for the mass atrocity on Hitler's Nazi German armies.

Along with the current inquiry, some question has arisen whether Col. Van Vliet's original report was deliberately hushed up.

Testifying before a special House of Representatives committee, Van Vliet said his five years of silence on the subject were imposed at his own request.

The witness told the committee that as a prisoner of war in Germany he was taken under guard to the Katyn Forest in May, 1943, to "inspect" the massacre scene.

He said he saw the bodies of the slain Poles stacked in eight layers "like sardines in a can" in a mass grave 12 feet deep.

Van Vliet said he went into the Forest convinced that the Germans had committed the crime and were trying to blame the Russians. But he noticed that the uniforms and boots on most of the bodies were new and showed few signs of wear.

That convinced him, he said, that the Poles had been murdered shortly after the Russians took them prisoner in 1940, rather than after the Germans overran the Katyn Forest, 33 miles west of Smolensk, in Western Russia, three years later.

Van Vliet said he reached that conclusion because his own experience in prison camp had taught him that clothing and shoes of live prisoners wore out rapidly and were slow to be replaced.

Van Vliet, called home from army duty in Japan to testify, told the lawmakers he submitted his original report on the massacre May 22, 1945.

Following the disappearance of that report, he said, he wrote in May, 1950, a second report containing the same major facts and conclusions.

The colonel's second report was eventually released by the Defense Department at the insistence of the House inquiry committee.

T. Thaddeus Romer, Polish Ambassador to Russia in 1943 at the time of the break in Russo-Polish relations, will testify before the committee tomorrow. He now is a professor at McGill University in Montreal.

Insurance to our policyholders." The Company's total income was \$74,000,000—an increase of 12 per cent over 1950. Both premium income and investment income were up substantially. Total income has more than doubled in the past eight years.

ONCHAN, Isle of Wight — (CP) — Miss Hipsibah Heap, 97, wore shabby clothes and used candles to save electricity. She was known locally as a woman who had seen better days. After her recent death, her will disclosed bequests of \$27,000, largely for charities.

Seven Entries In N. S. Regional Drama Festival

HALIFAX, Feb. 6 — (CP) — Two one-act plays by Canadian authors will be among the seven entries in the Nova Scotia Regional Drama Festival opening here Thursday.

"Incident On The Border" by Donald Wetmore, of Halifax, a romantic spy drama of the Maine-New Brunswick border in the days of the American civil war, will be staged by the Lunenburg Little Theatre. Mr. Wetmore's play was last year's winner of the second annual Nova Scotia Drama League play writing contest.

Dalhousie University players will present "God Caesar," by Marjorie Price, comedy winner of the Sir Barry Jackson Trophy several years ago. The trophy is awarded annually to the best Canadian one-act play in the Dominion Drama Festival.

An English exchange teacher, Moira Wellard, will play the title role in the Truro Community Players' production of Henrik Ibsen's tragedy "Hedda Gabler."

A theatre-in-the-round group — the Robert Alban Players of Halifax — will present Oscar Wilde's comedy of manners "The Importance of Being Earnest." Another Halifax dramatic organization, the Halifax Theatre Arts Guild, will stage Philip Barry's Broadway hit "The Sign of the Cross."

"Dark Brown" by Philip Johnson, will be done by the Annapolis Royal Drama Group.

Two plays by British authors will round out the three-day festival schedule. The New Glasgow Theatre Guild will present J.B. Priestley's "The Linden Tree" and the Shearwater Players, from Dartmouth, will stage the London comedy hit "Grand National Night" by the Christies.

The festival, to be adjudicated by London stage star Philip Lefevre, will be held in the gymnasium of H.M.C.S. Scotian, at the Naval Dockyard.

Romance Brings N.Z. Naval Man To Dutch Title

Auckland, N.Z., Feb. — (CP) — Able Seaman Desmond Thompson of Auckland will soon become a Dutch Baron as a result of a romance that started with "pen pal" correspondence.

A shipmate of Thompson aboard a New Zealand frigate serving off Korea wrote to a magazine seeking pen pals, and Thompson was one of the seaman who soon entered into regular correspondence with a girl in Australia.

The girl was a Dutch immigrant Miss Helen Coops. After months of correspondence she and Thompson became engaged, and they were married at Perth, Australia, when he returned from service in Korea.

Only after the marriage did Thompson learn his bride was heiress to an ancient Dutch Barony. Under Netherlands customs, in the eldest child of a titled family is a girl, she may pass the title to her husband when she is 21, provided the family agrees.

Mrs. Thompson is 21 in February and her family is anxious that the title be passed on.

The Barony consists of two major houses, the house of Keppel and the house of Battenburg, a branch of the same house as that to which the Duke of Edinburgh belongs. One of Mrs. Thompson's uncles, a naval captain, is bringing the title transfer papers to Auckland for signature after her birthday.

At present the couple are living in a caravan in Auckland while looking for a house. Thompson plans to leave the sea when his term in the Navy expires and take up farming. Meanwhile their caravan flies the Dutch flag and bears the Keppel coat of arms on the wall.

Mrs. Thompson's father was a naval captain and while his wife and daughter were in a concentration camp in Java during the war, he served in the Pacific with the Dutch Forces, at one stage in company with the New Zealand Cruiser Leander in which able-seaman Thompson was serving. Mrs. Thompson's grandfather is Admiral W. Kamp, of Holland. The young couple have decided to carry on the family tradition and send any sons they may have to the Naval Academy in Holland.

GREENHILL SCHOOL Report for JANUARY. Grade X: 1, Ella Smith; 2, Fairley Dumville; 3, Lillian Phillips. Grade IX: 1, Ernest Wood. Grade VIII: 1, Freda McMillan; 2, Audrey Dumville; 3, Ralph McWilliams. Grade VII: 1, Raymond McWilliams. Grade VI: 1, Ina Smith; 2, Evan McDougall. Grade III: 1, Linda McWilliams. Grade II: 1, Sherill Barwise; 2, Erwin Phillips. Mrs. E. Griffin, Teacher.

Woman Centenarian A Prairie Pioneer

ARCOLA, Sask., Feb. — (CP) — Mrs. John Beggs of Arcola is one of Canada's oldest women. She is 104.

Born Lovinia Burwash in Prescott County, Ont., in 1848, she homesteaded with her husband two miles east of the present site of Arcola in 1882.

Though now unable to see or hear very well, "Grandmother Beggs," as she is affectionately known here, retains an interest in activities around her. She lives with her only living son and his wife on the original family homestead.

Mrs. Beggs believes in hard work and says pioneering never hurt anybody. "When you work you're ready for your meals and it's good to have a hearty appetite," she said.

She recalls living in a tent until

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their log house was completed. At first she was frightened by the Indians who often came to the tent.

"But before the year was out I found there was no harm in them," she said. "I was glad to see the squaws come as there was no white woman I could talk to."

Mrs. Beggs believes in hard work and says pioneering never hurt anybody.

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