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Probe Crash Of Bleachers At Baltimore

BALTIMORE, March 8—(AP)—An aroused Baltimore began trying to find out today what caused the collapse of a section of bleachers at Sonja Henie's ice show last night.

Scores of the 275 persons injured in the 20-foot drop were sent to hospital. Thirty-two are in serious condition.

Within 18 hours after the mishap, a Baltimore couple filed suits amounting to \$25,000 against Miss Henie, her husband, Winthrop Gardiner, Jr., and the Ice Revue. Mr. and Mrs. Martin E. Strumbowski claimed they were injured in the collapse of the bleachers.

Three separate investigations were under way—by the state, the city and the management of the ice show. Public Works Director Paul Holland said they would go through the wreckage "timber by timber and joint by joint."

The rear section of a bank of bleachers gave way a few minutes before the show was to start. The section was the last to be put up, and spectators said workmen still were hammering on it as they moved to their seats.

Mayor Thomas D. Alesandro said "flimsy construction" was to blame. Buildings Inspector Paul Cohen said "these rows of seats were in addition to the seats usually erected in haste (and) not properly braced and the uprights were not nailed securely."

Miss Henie called off tonight's show. She said it probably would go on tomorrow night.

The job of erecting the seats

Cost of Living Shows Decline

OTTAWA, March 8—(CP)—Lower prices for some foods, clothing and home furnishings pushed living costs down in eight of nine regional centres during January, the Bureau of Statistics reported today.

The regional cost-of-living index on Feb. 1 increased slightly at Saskatoon, but declined at Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Saint John, N.B., Halifax and St. John's, Nfld.

Declines were noted for such food items as beef, pork and eggs; for such clothing items as nylon hosiery and woollen apparel; and for such home furnishings as wool blankets, furniture and cleaning supplies.

Higher prices for dairy products and vegetables boosted the index at Saskatoon.

Regional index figures on Feb. 1 with Jan. 2 standings in brackets, based on August, 1939, prices equalling 100:

Vancouver, 192.5 (193.6); Edmonton, 183.2 (183.4); Saskatoon, 187.1 (187.0); Winnipeg, 183.4 (183.7); Toronto, 186.0 (187.1); Montreal, 197.1 (198.1); Saint John N. B., 187.5 (188.0); Halifax, 178.2 (179.3). The index for St. John's, Nfld., based on June, 1951, prices equalling 100 was 103.7 (103.9).

The indexes show changes in retail prices and services in each city. They do not indicate whether it costs more or less to live in one city than another.

was contracted for by Ed Coranati of Westfield, N. J. He has set up temporary seats previously at the big armory. He was not available for comment.



PLENTY OF GRIT—British soldiers on patrol in Egypt's Suez Canal Zone lean into the wind of a sand storm. Handkerchiefs over their faces protect them from the stinging particles and enable them to breathe. Sand is an enemy that gets into everything—food, clothes, bedding, eyes and lungs.

Watch Shipment Worthless Rock

NEW YORK, March 8—(AP)—An air shipment of nine boxes, supposed to contain \$2,300 worth of watches being returned from Chile to Switzerland, today were found to be full of rocks and chunks of iron. The discovery was made when one of the boxes broke open while being handled at New York International Airport.

West German Economy Staggers Under Load Of Social Welfare

BONN, March 8—(AP)—Western Germany is shelling out public aid to almost 13,000,000 persons—or one out of every four in the population.

That's the total of war victims, pensioners, unemployed and others who look to the government for assistance or support.

The crushing burden of social welfare nicks the West Germans for 52 per cent of all tax revenues and 22 per cent of the national income. These costs are rising. The number of aged eligible for pensions is growing. The endless flow of destitute refugees from the Communist east goes on.

From a population of 48,000,000, more than 1,300,000 Germans now are jobless. More than 250,000 live in barracks or the ruins of bombed buildings. Some 20 per cent of the population draws pensions of one type or another.

These are some of the hard facts of German life backing the German claim that their taxes and social charges are higher than in any other European country.

The Federal Government's annual report says social welfare is costing the country 17,800,000,000 marks (\$4,094,000,000).

This includes: 7,345,000,000 marks (\$1,689,000,000) for unemployment insurance; 1,250,000,000 marks (\$287,500,000) for pensions; 9,205,000,000 marks (\$2,117,000,000) for payments to war victims housing, food subsidies and assistance to isolated Berlin.

Refugees Problem

The social burden is almost as great as the entire federal budget. The federal government cites this heavy burden as an argument against increasing West Germany's financial contribution to western defence, despite sensational increases in industrial output and foreign trade.

Some 9,000,000 refugees have crammed into overcrowded West Germany since 1945—and they still flock in at the rate of 1,000 a day.

Most are penniless. Many are too old or too sick to work. Many depend on government handouts to keep alive.

Aside from the aged and the refugees, Germany's pension burdens extend to the families of 3,500,000 war dead and 2,000,000 war maimed people.

Denies Post Office Ordered Deletion Of Words "Royal Mail"

TORONTO, March 9—At no time have the Post Office authorities issued instructions for the deletion of "Royal Mail" from any property, whether that property belonged to the Government or not, Walter J. Turnbull, deputy postmaster general, told the Public Relations Association of Ontario at a luncheon here last Thursday.

Charges that orders had gone out to remove the words from mail-trucks and other installations were untrue, the deputy said. A "mare's nest" had been stirred up, compounded of equal parts of ignorance and, perhaps, malice.

"You can see the words 'Royal Mail' at any time on plenty of vehicles used in postal work," he said. "They are embossed on the boxes of the mail-collection systems in most hotels and larger office buildings—the 'Outlet' systems. We have not interfered with them; we have no intention of doing so."

Why "Royal Mail" appeared only in spots and was not in general use was easily explained, declared Mr. Turnbull.

"The vehicles used to transport mail simply do not belong to the Post Office. They're the property of the mail-contractors—truck-owners and larger transportation companies. The trucks and vans are theirs, not ours."

When a contract was let for the carriage of mail, the contractor was also given the right to adorn his vehicle with the Canadian coat-of-arms and the Royal Cipher—the initials of the reigning monarch. Today, it is "E. R." (Elizabeth Regina.) These are the official imprimaturs of royal authority, Mr. Turnbull said.

There was nothing new in that. The situation had prevailed since Confederation, the speaker said. When the Post Office gave a mail contractor official authority to use the national coat-of-arms and the Royal Cipher, it had done everything that lay within its power. The Post Office had no warrant to order contractors to inscribe "Royal Mail" on their vehicles and equally it had no warrant to order them to remove it.

"And we've never told them to remove it," Mr. Turnbull said.

Here was an instance where the public at large had not taken the trouble to check up or inform themselves if they were right or wrong. So, declared the deputy, "when Noah Webster defined a 'mare's nest' as something grossly absurd that is credulously believed to be genuine or true, you can see how aptly this pother about 'Royal Mail' falls into the classification."

Said Negligent In Cairo Riots

CAIRO, March 8—(Reuters)—Faud Serag El Din Fakhri, Interior Minister at the time of Cairo's "Black Saturday" riots on Jan. 29, was indicted tonight for "negligence."

The charge was brought against Serag and other government officials soon after an official inquiry into the riots found the officials to have been "administratively responsible" and "accused them of neglect of duty."

The indictment alleged that the Minister showed "negligence" in drawing up a plan to check the riots. It said he admitted he learned of the "origin and subsequent development" of the riots but "passed responsibility on to police commandant and ministry officials."

The indictment called for administrative disciplinary action against government officials, including police chiefs.

Others named with Serag as administratively responsible were Hussein Sobhi Bey, director of Public Security, Murad El Kholb Bey, former Cairo City Police Commandant, Ibrahim Imam Bey, his deputy and other senior police officers.

The 50-page indictment report commented that "on no account should national sentiment have been disrupted public security."

ning March 31, Mr. Macdonald dealt in some detail with the budget estimates he tabled yesterday without comment.

He noted that the province may have either a surplus or a deficit for the year just ending, depending on current negotiations with the Federal Government on the Dominion-Provincial tax agreement. This would be the fifth surplus in the 19-year liberal reign and "we now find ourselves back again in the atmosphere of balanced budgets... an atmosphere in which I hope we shall dwell for many years."

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Predicts Surplus For Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, March 8—(CP)—Premier Angus L. Macdonald, delivering his 14th budget speech to the Nova Scotia Legislature, said today he hopes "we have risen forever out of the unfamiliar ground of deficits."

Predicting a surplus of at least \$255,000 for the fiscal year beginning

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS

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Woman's Wardrobe Is Extraordinary

MONTREAL, March 7—A wife's demand for \$2,000 a month alimony was chopped to \$560 a month by Mr. Justice George A. Chalmers yesterday on the ground that he had to consider only "what she needed, not what she wanted."

The judge found that Mrs. Gertrude Radmore had seriously exaggerated her needs in asking that her husband, Herb A. Radmore pay her a provisional allowance of \$2,000 a month out of annual income of \$15,000.

Mrs. Radmore said she needed a maid because she was allergic to soap and could not wash dishes. She also wanted to go to Florida for the winter, but His Lordship ruled that was not necessary. She said she was in need of medical treatment but the court said the weight of medical evidence showed she could do her own housework.

The court noted that in Dec. 1950 though she had five fur coats she bought another for \$1,732.

She also had 40 dresses, 35 pairs of shoes, 15 suits, five cloth coats and an extensive collection of made-to-order jewelry.

In 10 months she spent \$941 in taxis "because her health wouldn't stand streetcar or bus riding."

NATIVE RACE

The aborigines of New Zealand, called Maoris, emigrated there from the eastern Pacific 600 years ago.

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CANADIAN Nickel

"We must get a lot of money for the nickel we export?"

"Yes, son. In recent years the Nickel Company's exports to the United States have had a value of 100 million dollars. All these U.S. dollars coming in help to keep Canada prosperous."