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HUNDREDS VIEW SCENE OF YESTERDAY'S DESTRUCTIVE BLAZE



FLAME SWEEPS EAST END OF BODY SHOP

Heavy Damage Caused By Garage Fire Yesterday

Fire, causing an estimated \$60,000 damage to Martin's Garage and Auto Body Shop and unestimated loss to a warehouse owned and used by Foster Pickard whipped quickly through the three Queen Street buildings yesterday afternoon and left both equipment and buildings a total loss. Included were nine late model cars, three of which were owned by the Martin firm, and one late model truck. It is reported that the garage and body shop were partially covered by insurance but the Pickard warehouse was not.

The blaze is said to have started shortly after 2 p.m. when a gas tank ignited and exploded from a torch which body mechanic Jack Young was using to weld the rear section of a Studebaker sedan. The force of the explosion drove Young back against another nearby vehicle but through the aid of some fellow workers he managed to escape from the quickly spreading flames.

Due to the heavy smoke it was extremely difficult for firemen and employees to see within unburning areas of the structures or to save building in an effort to salvage some equipment. Young was struck on the mouth by a steel helmet and was carried unconscious from the garage. His injuries were not serious.

BUILDINGS GUTTED

Within an hour after the blaze started, the three buildings had been gutted and all available equipment from the Charlottetown and Parkdale fire departments continued to pour torrents of water on the burning shells in a successful effort to keep the fire from spreading to surrounding buildings.

The Pickard warehouse, which lay to the rear of the other buildings, is reported to have been housing only a small stock of hides and skins, all of which were lost. At one time it was also thought that Mac's Egg Grading station, next door to the garage, might be in danger and volunteers emptied it of its contents, mainly eggs and office equipment.

At the time of the out-break, 15 vehicles were in the garage and body shop undergoing repairs. Five of these, all cars, were taken out during fire, many of them badly damaged from heat, water and smoke.

During the fire members of the Red Cross Disaster Services Committee set up a canteen at Roper's Service Station and provided coffee and cookies for the firemen.

Macmillan Declines Comment On Eisenhower's Message

By PAMELA MATTHEWS

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain urged Thursday that an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the Gulf of Aqaba should be tied to United Nations action assuring Israel's security in the two areas.

At the same time, official quarters gave "qualified approval" to President Eisenhower's address Wednesday night warning that UN pressure must be applied to Israel for a withdrawal. But they continue cool toward the idea of sanctions.

Britain's appeal for UN action co-ordinated with an Israeli withdrawal was made in a prepared statement from the foreign office which hours before the government was questioned in the House of Commons about Eisenhower's new statement.

Both Labor and Conservative members expressed concern over U.S. policy toward Israel. A Labor spokesman sought a declaration that Britain is not committed to U.S. policy.

Prime Minister Macmillan refused to be drawn into the discussion. He declined comment on the Eisenhower message or on Britain's attitude toward imposing sanctions against Israel if she refuses to withdraw.

COMBINED OPERATION

About the only result of the questions was a government promise to consider a debate of the issue.

The foreign office statement recommended a "combined operation" for the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the entry of UN troops into the Gaza Strip and the Gulf of Aqaba.

It said co-ordination is needed, including a pledge to Israel, rather than a flat demand for a withdrawal without planning the next step.

"The British government regards all this as a combined operation and believes that the collective wisdom of the UN should be able to solve it."

The first step should be agreement about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and that they should then be agreement — another UN resolution — to cover freedom of passage in the Straits of Tiran (in the Gulf of Aqaba) and other related matters."

COMMONS QUESTIONS

A foreign office spokesman declined to answer whether Britain would approve UN pressure on Israel if she refuses to withdraw voluntarily.

In House of Commons questioning Thursday, Prime Minister Macmillan was asked about a reply to Russia's proposals last week for a Big Four agreement on a Middle East military hand-off policy. The prime minister said consultations are going on with the U.S. and France.

P.M. Hedges On Life Of House

OTTAWA (CP) — The government intends to bring in its budget legislation before dissolution of Parliament "if there is time."

Prime Minister St. Laurent said Thursday.

But he hedged slightly when asked whether the legislation will be passed by Parliament before it is dissolved and an election is called.

Replying in the Commons to questions, Mr. St. Laurent said "we always hope that the legislation we bring forward can go through but we do not attempt to rush matters."

There is speculation by some opposition members that the government may be considering calling an election shortly after Finance Minister Harris delivers his budget speech.

No date has been announced for the budget speech, but Tuesday, March 19, is considered a possibility.

Mr. St. Laurent listed about 20 pieces of legislation which the government is considering bringing in this session, in addition to those outlined in the throne speech at the opening of the session.

RAINMAKING FLOPS

VICTORIA (CP)—A report of the British Columbia research council, tabled Wednesday in the legislature, says rainmaking attempts in the province have been appreciable increases in rainfall due to cloud-seeding operations.

Population Of Canada Is Set At 16,344,000

OTTAWA (CP) — Revised estimates of Canada's population at the first of each year from 1952 to 1956 were announced Thursday by the bureau of statistics.

The June, 1951, decennial census placed the population at 14,009,000. The figure rose to an estimated 14,277,000 at Jan. 1, 1952; to 14,682,000 at Jan. 1, 1953; to 15,105,000 at Jan. 1, 1954; to 15,535,000 at Jan. 1, 1955 and to 15,919,000 at Jan. 1, 1956.

The 1956 national census placed the population at June 1 of last year at 16,061,000. The bureau estimated Feb. 11 that the figure had risen to 16,344,000 at Jan. 1 of this year.

Guided Missile Escapes Its Ground Control And Vanishes

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. (AP)—A Matador guided missile escaped its ground controls Thursday and roared northwest over New Mexico toward Colorado and Utah.

Holloman air development center officials, from where the missile was fired, said it probably went down "somewhere in western Colorado."

The missile did not carry an explosive warhead and was equipped only with instruments, officials said.

At Colorado Springs, Colo., continental air defence command authorities expressed belief the missile landed in an isolated mountain area in western Colorado or eastern Utah.

A spokesman said there would have been reports by now if the missile caused damage. He said that the missile's fuel would be exhausted so it must be down but

Prince And Princess Welcome Home The Queen And Duke

LONDON (CP)—Curly-haired Princess Anne pushed the future king of England aside Thursday and bolted up an aircraft ramp to welcome home her royal parents.

Anne, a sprightly 6, whiskered past Prince Charles, 8, and a host of dignitaries in the Duke of Queens Edinburgh and the Duke of Edinburgh in the privacy of the plane that brought them from a state visit in Portugal.

Charles and the dignitaries — including Prime Minister Macmillan — looked slightly nonplussed for a moment but then the heir to the throne took off after his sister to hug their parents. They hadn't seen their father since he started a world-circling tour four months ago.

EXCITING DEPARTURE

Despite the exuberance of the children, the arrival was serene in comparison with the uninhibited excitement in Portugal, which included a care-free ride through the streets of Oporto in a rattling truck intended for press photographers.

Several hundred persons on London airport's observation roof applauded politely after the plane landed in the gloom of a late, misty twilight.

The Queen, flying into the Royal Standard, was poised and collected, wearing her Canadian full-length pink coat and a blue and red hat.

Earlier Thursday a large crowd at Lisbon airport waved flags, hats and handkerchiefs wildly in an emotional farewell. Men and women with tears in their eyes — perhaps instinctively remembering the 600-year-old friendship between their country and Britain — shouted "Adeus Isabel!" (goodbye Elizabeth) until they were hoarse.

TAKE OVER TRUCK

But the strangest of the day's adventures took place in the city of Oporto, whose famous wines have been sent to Newfoundland

MUST HAVE GUARANTEE

Israeli Prime Minister Has Rejected The U.S. Demand

Wants A U.N. Force On The Straits Of Aquaba

By ROBERT TUCKMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion Thursday turned down President Eisenhower's demand for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Gulf of Aqaba.

At the same time, the Jewish leader announced Israel will make a new effort to reach an understanding with the United States on the Middle East crisis.

Addressing Parliament after a cabinet meeting, Ben-Gurion said anew that Israel must have guarantees of freedom of navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba, plus security against raids from the Gaza Strip.

REJECT STATUS QUO

"No matter what may happen, Israel will not submit to restoration of the status quo in the strip," he said.

Before last October's invasion Egypt controlled the strip, formerly a part of Palestine, under the 1949 armistice terms.

President Eisenhower called on Israel to meet United Nations demands that Israel withdraw from Gaza and the Sharm El Sheikh area overlooking the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba. He in effect held over Israel the threat of U.S. backing for punitive sanctions by the United Nations.

The 70-year-old Israeli prime minister said of the Aqaba Gulf coast:

"Israel has no need and no desire to occupy the desolate coastal strip of the (Tiran) Straits. But she cannot withdraw from the area without effective security guarantees that the Egyptian dictator's acts of violence against her shipping—which the United Nations has tolerated for years—will not be repeated."

"Israel dare not unconditionally abandon the defence of her rights and her security in the straits."

ASKS UHF POSTING

The white-haired leader made these proposals for Aqaba and Gaza:

"The government of Israel considers it essential that the United Nations Emergency Force should be stationed on the coast of the straits to safeguard freedom of navigation of Israeli shipping and to peace its concluded with Egypt, or until some other reliable and effective arrangement is made to this end."

"As for the Gaza Strip, it should be made certain that Egypt will not return to that area, either directly or indirectly, and the United Nations and Israel should arrive at an agreed settlement which will guarantee security for Israel and her settlements in the south and Negeb, will provide for during the period of Egyptian occupation, and will pave the way for a solution of the problem of the refugees by the United Nations."

Ben-Gurion added:

"The government of Israel has declared that Israel does not consider herself in a state of war with Egypt and is prepared to sign a treaty of non-aggression, which shall prohibit all acts of hostility on a basis of mutuality."

Moncton Put In The Red By Snow

MONCTON (CP) — The city of Moncton had an operating deficit for 1956 of \$88,803 with most of the deficit being attributed to increased snow removal costs. The city allowed \$100,000 for snow removal but actual cost was \$201,318.

Moncton aldermen decided to provide for the deficit by charging it against the reserve fund, set up to meet city financial emergencies.

Canada And Britain Work Towards Near East Solution

By LLOYD McDONALD

Canadian Press Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (CP) — Britain and Canada Thursday night were reported joining forces to work for a formula within the United Nations on the Israeli-Egyptian crisis if the United States mediation outside the world body fails.

Israel's continued refusal to withdraw her forces from the Gaza Strip and the Gulf of Aqaba area increased the belief here that Washington will have to give up its attempt to settle the deadlock with Israel.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's statement in Jerusalem that Israel will not pull out without guarantees against Egyptian aggression came as no surprise to the delegations.

The Israeli leader's further statement that new efforts would be made to reach an understanding with the U.S. was greeted here with scepticism. The Americans have carried on talks for Washington for more than a week without accomplishing anything but continued requests and counter-requests for clarification of the withdrawal terms.

ASSEMBLY STANDS BY

Meanwhile, the General Assembly is standing by to take up the question this afternoon — after repeated postponements during the Washington negotiations. The Arab delegations are still talking strongly about sanctions against Israel, but the prospects are that some milder resolution will be substituted.

Canada's External Affairs Minister Pearson has been inclined since his return from Ottawa Wednesday to avoid any public statement involving his country in a mediator's role — at least until the Americans come out with a definite appeal for the UN to "take back" the dispute.

Pearson was reported taking the view that there must be another assembly attempt to get a resolution acceptable to both sides. He has long advocated one which would call for the UN Emergency Force to be evacuated by the Israeli forces. And despite discouragement by the Canadian delegation of such speculation, there is continued belief that Pearson has been discussing the idea of a naval extension of the UN force in the gulf.

Israel has made freedom of navigation there one of her biggest demands. In Ben-Gurion's view the U.S. has not gone far enough to meet this with State Secretary Dulles' offer of public support.

Calling Tenders Shortly For New Naval Barracks

OTTAWA (Special) — About three weeks time tenders for construction of a naval barracks to house and train men of the RCNVR at Charlottetown will be called by Defence Construction Limited, the crown contractor which undertakes construction for the Department of National Defence plans and specifications have already been forwarded to defence construction and are now under examination.

A first-class waterfront site was acquired by the Government some two years ago from Simon Paoli,

Hungarians Expected To Arrive In P. E. I. On Tuesday

A group of ten to twelve Hungarians are expected to arrive in the Province on Tuesday of next week with another group of about the same number following on Friday or Saturday of the same week.

Yesterday Mr. A.M. Trennam of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, who is the District Co-ordinator of the Hungarian Refugee Movement for the Atlantic Provinces, was in the City, accompanied by Mr. George W. Molins, Officer in Charge, Canadian Immigration, Moncton, N.B.

These two officials called on the Department of Health and Welfare, and discussed matters with Dr. Curtis, Deputy Minister of Health, and W.W. Reid, Deputy Minister of Welfare. They also visited the Hungarian Reception Center at Falconwood, and spent some time at the National Employment Office which will be doing some of the placement work.

P. E. I. Highlanders Prepare For Regimental Reunion

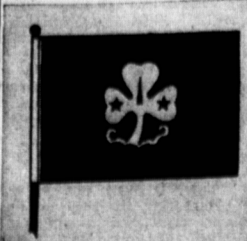
The first organizational meeting of veterans interested in the reunion of the P.E.I. Highlanders next July will hold their first meeting in Charlottetown on Sunday afternoon at the Clover Club at the Canadian Legion Home on Grafton Street.

It is expected that the former Commanding Officer of the unit, Lt. Col. W.J. MacDonald will be among those attending this meeting which will discuss the proposed reunion of the ex-Highlanders tentatively scheduled to be held in Summerside in conjunction with the Summerside Lobster Carnival in July.

A number of those who served in this unit will be present at Sunday's organizational meeting and Charles Hogan, one of the committee members, said Thursday that any ex-Highlanders who are interested in the reunion will be welcome at this first organizational meeting.

MINERAL OUTPUT

Nova Scotia annually produces about 6,000,000 tons of coal and 4,000,000 tons of gypsum, among other minerals.



FLIES TODAY

Shown above is the flag of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. By kind permission of the civic authorities it is being flown today in front of the City Hall in honour of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the movement.

New Hospital Wing To Go Up In Late Spring; Cost \$744,000

Tenders will be called for the building of the new wing of the Prince Edward Island Hospital in about a month's time and the building will be started in the latter spring months. This was announced last night at the 74th annual meeting of the Hospital by Dr. J.W. MacKenzie, chairman of the Board of Trustees who said the structure would cost \$744,000.

Dr. MacKenzie paid tribute to all who worked in the recent hospital campaign which, under the chairmanship of Lt. Col. J.D. Stewart, raised \$316,000. He expressed sincere thanks for the generous donations that came from citizens both within and outside the Province.

In his report the chairman made fitting reference to the passing of Dr. Donald Campbell. "His death was an occasion of real grief to all. A man of outstanding gifts as a surgeon and a personality which endeared him to countless friends and patients; he is sorely missed," said Dr. MacKenzie.

Fitting reference was also made to the passing of Mr. Harper MacNeil, a former trustee of the Board.

INFECTION CLEARED UP

The Hospital is now completely clear of an infection of Staphylococcus was reported by Dr. MacKenzie who expressed sincere thanks to Dr. F.W. Jelks, chief of the Department of Bacteriology, Department of Health for what he described as tremendous work in identifying these 81 organisms by specimens taken from infected patients. "We are indeed fortunate to have such a highly qualified man within call of our hour of need," said Mr. MacKenzie.

Thanks were also extended to Dr. D.R. Brown for his work in supervising the isolation of patients infected with the disease.

AUXILIARY GROUPS

Dr. MacKenzie also extended his thanks to the various auxiliary organizations who gave of their generous support at all times. He also expressed sincere appreciation for the work of the medical staff, to Mr. N.D. MacLean, Mrs. Lois MacDonald and all the hospital staff who made it possible for the Board to report another successful year.

The organization of the Hospital Men's Association was highly commended by Dr. MacKenzie who emphasized the importance of having a group of interested citizens who would serve as a liaison between the hospital management and the people who use the hospital. He said the organization plans to carry forward the idea of enlisting representative citizens throughout Queens County.

OTHER REPORTS

The following reports from auxiliary organizations were presented: School of Nursing, Mrs. Don Wonnacott; Senior Ladies' Aid, Mrs. G.H. Buntan; Financial report, Mrs. A.B. Bagnall; Junior Ladies' Aid, Mrs. Ian Burnett; League of Mercy, Mrs. H.A. Brown (read by Mrs. H.H. Simpson); W.C.-Lo Club, Mrs. A.W. Matheson (read by Mrs. G.G.K. Penke).

In the election of trustees, Dr.

Sentenced For Blackmail Try

SAINT-JOHN, N.B. (CP) — Daniel Girard, 43, of nearby Black River, was sentenced Thursday to one month in jail after he pleaded guilty to trying to extort \$10,000 from Joseph A. Likely, a Saint John business man.

A letter Mr. Likely received a few days ago demanded that he put the money in old, unmarked bills in a parcel and leave it at 7 p.m. in a mail box on the Black River Road. The letter threatened death if he told police.

Mr. Likely notified authorities however, and was told to place a parcel in the box at the threatened time. Three RCMP men nearby and arrested Girard 15 minutes later when he removed the parcel.