

Growing Importance Of Gulf Shipping Draws Attention

MONTREAL (CP) — Growing economic development on Quebec's North Shore area is bringing suggestions the federal government do more to provide year-round navigation on the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The normal four-month shipping halt is said to be detrimental to production of pulp, newsprint, iron ore and aluminum—either present or planned.

Ice-breaker service and aerial ice scouting would end this "state of hibernation," President Arthur M. Schmon of the Quebec North Shore Paper Company recently told the Baie Comeau district Chamber of Commerce.

MADE FEBRUARY TRIP

The company last year made a trip to the Gulf when it dispatched the freighter Elin Hope from Baie Comeau west into February, using a chartered plane for scouting purposes. The Elin Hope made a trip last Jan. 5 but "terrible" ice conditions have ruled out any further scheduled trips for the time being.

The highway runs only as far as Baie Comeau, which is about 400 air miles northeast of Montreal. There is no railroad to the outside.

Mr. Schmon, estimating current

and potential North Shore investment at \$1,000,000,000, said a \$2,500,000 icebreaker seems a small price for a country like Canada to pay on such investment. He praised the Baie Comeau Chamber of Commerce for raising the matter with the government.

The North Shore Paper Company has ordered on long-term charter an 11,000-ton Scandinavian-constructed vessel able to operate in ice. She is expected to be in operation by 1950 and will cost between \$3,000,000-\$5,000,000.

OTHERS TO BENEFIT

Mr. Schmon, of St. Catharines, Ont., spoke of other industries which would benefit from year-round gulf navigation.

The Iron Ore Company of Canada, which produced about 12,000,000 tons of ore in 1956, must stockpile at its terminal port of Sept-Isles, above Baie Comeau. United States Steel, proceeding with a multi-million-dollar mining project and processing plant in the area, will be using Shelter Bay as a terminal. It lies between Sept-Isles and Baie Comeau.

He also mentioned the Canadian British Aluminium company's plant at Baie Comeau which expects to be turning out 90,000 tons

of aluminum by 1959. In addition, inbound supplies will include 168,000 tons of alumina, 38,000 tons of coke and 18,000 tons of pitch, plus quantities of construction material.

"We have proved that the St. Lawrence need not be closed during the winter months," said Mr. Schmon.

NOT SIMPLE PROBLEM

Transport department officials, who have six main icebreakers to handle east coast chores, say that the problem isn't that simple.

"Some years, like last year, year-round navigation may be fairly easy," said one. "But this year has been one of the worst."

Last year, a small coastal steamer plied regularly to the North Shore all winter.

The problem in the gulf is drifting ice packs, which shift with the wind. While they tend to pile up on the south shore of the river and gulf, they may not.

Once these packs freeze together in or near a port, nothing but an icebreaker can crack them up. Unprotected vessels caught in port or at sea in such masses would probably need assistance to free themselves before the wind could do the job.

Arctic Icefloes Being Pushed Slowly Seaward

By GERALD FREEMAN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—Several points along the northeast coast reported themselves free of ice Tuesday night as 30-mile-an-hour northwesterly winds pushed Arctic floes seaward.

Conception Bay cleared enough to permit the ferry Kipawo to run unhampered between Bell Island and Brigus. Ice was reported several miles off shore at Grates Point, the tip of land between Conception and Trinity bays. Newfoundland farther north, reported no ice in sight.

However, the general picture north of Conception Bay was practically unchanged. Vast fields of an or slob ice extending from the Labrador coast and northeast Newfoundland. A huge field fills the sea from 15 miles off St. John's to a point about 100 miles southeastward. West coast ports are also blockaded.

SHIPPING IN DANGER

A few days of easterly winds, now overdue, would paralyze shipping in St. John's harbor and Conception Bay as well as making the blockade even stiffer farther north.

Heavy snow also added to transportation difficulties in Newfoundland. Most roads were cleared from St. John's to Conception Bay and Trinity Bay communities Tuesday after a weekend blizzard had dumped a foot of snow on the eastern part of the province.

The Burin Peninsula remained plugged Tuesday but plows were expected to dig into 15-foot drifts

there today.

Another foot of snow fell Tuesday at Gander, limiting air traffic to five or six planes that had to stop for a necessary refueling. Trans-Canada Air Lines overflew Gander. Flows spent the entire day keeping one runway open in case of emergency.

A plane that landed Monday ran into a snowdrift and had to be shovelled out. There was no damage.

Disgruntled passengers from an Air France flight waited impatiently at the airport while a new engine was sent to replace a misbehaving one for their aircraft. After a two-day wait the engine arrived Tuesday. It was installed and tested. Rags used by New York mechanics to plug fuel lines had not been removed and shredded through the engine. The passengers are waiting gloomily for another engine to arrive.



AIR FORCE RESCUE UNITS IN ACTION

Commonplace episodes in the life of R.C.A.F. personnel assigned to para-rescue work: left, twin-engine aircraft conducts search of inaccessible mountainous region; center, helicopter lands on rugged, rock-strewn hillside; right, member of para-rescue team hurries from his air transport to bring aid and comfort to crew of downed aircraft.

The personnel of R.C.A.F. para-rescue units are all volunteer non-commissioned officers belonging to the safety equipment and medical branches of the service. The first half of their twenty-week period of instruction is carried out at the School of Survival located at Edmonton. The second half is conducted at Henry House Field, Jasper, Alta., where the terrain is most suitable for training, as it presents every type of hazard the future rescuers are liable to encounter. At the conclusion of this phase of training successful personnel are awarded the coveted para-rescue wings.

On Thursday, February 12th, the para-rescue school was reactivated when thirty airmen from units scattered across Canada commenced training at Edmonton.

CASCUMPEC

The farmers of this vicinity are taking advantage of the lovely fine weather and many are in the woods getting out lumber, pulp, etc.

Mr. Vance Bridges, Miss Sheila Ogue, Mrs. Melvin Bridges and Mr. Gilbert Bridges, Summerside, were visitors to Cascumpec on Saturday Feb. 2nd.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Thomas were recent visitors to Summerside, guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Read.

Miss Stella MacNeve, who is employed in the Bank of Commerce, Alberton, spent the weekend at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rustin MacNeve.

Mrs. Ray Murray recently spent a few days in Charlottetown, guest of her sister, Mrs. Edgar Hayes and Mr. Hayes.

The many friends of Mr. Russell Leard are pleased to learn he is much improved after his recent illness.

Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas and daughter Rhonda, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leard.

Miss Doris MacNeve, teacher of Fortune Cove School, spent the weekend at her home in Cascumpec.

Mrs. Ruth MacArthur and small daughter, Mill Road, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Ray Murray.

The Cascumpec Auxiliary of the W.M.S. held their monthly meeting, Wednesday evening Feb. 6, at the home of Mrs. John Raynor, the next meeting to be held at the home of Mrs. Rhodes Ashley.

Mr. John Raynor and Mr. Lester Wallace were business visitors to Charlottetown, Feb. 6th.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smallman, Knutsford, were recent visitors to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wallace, Fortune Cove.

The many friends of Mrs. Geo. D. Warren, Mill Road are pleased to learn she is feeling better after her recent illness.

TYNE VALLEY

A card party was held in Tyne Valley Hall on Wednesday evening, Jan. 30th, with eight tables playing. Prizes for highest score were won by Miss Geraldine Marchbanks and Mr. Horace Newcombe. Consolation prizes went to Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Marchbanks. Prizes were donated by Mrs. Elmer Baker and pro-

ceeds were for the Women's Institute.

Friends of Mr. Leith Hayes were sorry to learn of his unfortunate accident of breaking his wrist. The arm was X-rayed and set in a cast at the Health Centre.

Mrs. Russel Murphy met with a painful accident on Friday evening, Feb. 1st, when she slipped on a piece of ice and fell and fractured her wrist. She was taken to the Health Centre, Tyne Valley, where she had the wrist set in a cast and was able to return to her home the following day.

The regular meeting of the Presbyterian W.M.S. met at the home of Mrs. Edward MacArthur on Monday evening, Feb. 4th.

The Board of Managers of the Presbyterian Church held their monthly meeting at the home of Mr. Ivan MacLean on Monday evening Feb. 9th.

The monthly meeting of the Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Dean Crosby on Tuesday evening, Feb. 5th, with a full attendance and a few welcome visitors. The collection for the evening which amounted to seven dollars and ten cents was donated to the "March of Dimes". An Auction sale of articles donated by the members brought in twenty dollars and seventy-five cents. The Secretary reported twenty one, dollars and sixteen cents made at two card parties since the last meeting. Next meeting at the home of Mrs. Horace Lidstone on

Predicts 100,000 New Homes Built This Year

OTTAWA (CP)—Works Minister Winters predicts Canada will build 100,000 new houses this year despite a January slump in new dwellings started.

In an interview Tuesday, he described that figure—though based on last year's record completions of 139,000 homes—as "better than average."

Figures on January starts have not yet been released, but the minister said they were less than one-half the 4,000 started in the first month of 1956.

Housing loans also have declined. Totals for January may be published in a few days. They are expected to show a continuation of the December trend when mortgages insured under the National Housing Act totalled only 598, barely more than one-fourth the 2,317 insured in December, 1956.

AWAITING RESULTS

Mr. Winters said the impact of the government's Jan. 21 action in raising the interest ceiling on insured mortgages has not yet been felt. Full effect of the increase from 5½ to 6 per cent might show by the end of the month, he added.

There was "no doubt" the increase would make more money available for housing.

Homes completed totalled 60,000 in 1946; 89,000 in 1950 and 127,600 in 1955.

In Trade Minister Howe's fore-

cast of 1957 capital investment, made to the Commons Monday, house-building outlays were estimated to drop by about 30 per cent from \$1,575,000,000 to \$1,283,000,000.

There is some concern that though over-all spending may decline, the number of unsold houses may increase. Stewart Bates, president of the crown-owned Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, estimated that at the beginning of 1957 unsold houses totalled 4,500 compared to about 2,500 in 1956.

Liberal Member Expelled From Quebec House

QUEBEC (CP) — Emilian Lafrance, Liberal member for Richmond, was expelled from the legislative assembly for 30 days following a rowdy debate Wednesday over a bill making legal the appointment of a Montreal housing bureau.

A motion by Premier Duplessis that Mr. Lafrance be censured and expelled was approved by a vote of 61 to 17. His indemnity also will be cut.

The sanction against the fiery former Nationalist came after he was named by Speaker Maurice

Teller for refusing to withdraw a charge against the government bill.

Mr. Lafrance said the measure making the housing bureau legal was dangerous, bad and "similar to the Dillon bill."

The Dillon bill was a measure introduced by the provincial Liberal administration in 1931 declaring legal the election of more than a score of legislature members whose elections were being contested before the courts.

Mr. Lafrance, ordered to withdraw the comparison to the Dillon bill by Deputy Speaker Daniel Johnson, refused and asked for an explanation.

"We are not in Russia here, are we?" he shouted.

Mr. Lafrance returned to the legislature only Tuesday after being expelled for eight days for charging the Union Nationale "made the province drunk" during last summer's provincial election.

HOME AND SCHOOL

The Tignish Home and School Association held their monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, January 28th with a good representation of parents and all teachers present.

Topics discussed were "Methods to be used to prevent teenagers from smoking" and "Good Manners for School Children". Both subjects were well discussed and from the meeting it is hoped something constructive will be done.

Money was voted to have a book-case and cupboard provided for a class-room in the Dalton School. Mr. Joseph Conway presided.

Declares Tax Dept. "Pitiless"

QUEBEC (CP) — Premier Duplessis said Wednesday that officers of the federal income tax department are as "autocratic and pitiless" as Russia's secret police.

During discussion of amendments to the Quebec Securities Act, the premier told the Legislative Assembly:

"There are few police officers in the world, even in Russia, who are as autocratic and pitiless as the officers of the federal income tax department."

"It's simply fantastic the way federal income tax officers can take a house apart when they are looking for something."

"I was told they even tear wallpaper off the walls when conducting searches."

The officers themselves were not to blame because they followed instructions, he said.

He made the statement after Rene Hamel, acting Liberal leader and Richard Hyde L-Westmount (St. George) argued the Quebec securities commission has too wide investigation powers.

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