

REDS OFFER TO EXCHANGE SICK, WOUNDED PRISONERS

33 Persons Perish In Nursing Home Fire

B.C. Legislature Dissolved; Election To Be Held In June

VICTORIA, (CP)—British Columbians will vote in a provincial general election on or before June 15, the second within a year.

The first and only session of the 23rd legislature was dissolved Saturday by Lieutenant-Governor Clarence Wallace, who rejected the CCF's bid to form an administration following defeat of the minority Social Credit government on the floor of the House Tuesday night.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett immediately announced an election will be held on or before June 15. Actual date is expected to be announced soon.

C. C. F. Leader Resigns

For the first time in 18 years, the CCF may not be led in the campaign by their 44-year-old leader, Harold Winch. He has been a member of the House for 20 years.

Randolph Harding, CCF-Kaslo-

Exploding Shells Wreck Small Town In Indiana

LEWIS, Ind., (AP)—Exploding artillery shells from three ammunition cars on a derailed and burning freight train rained fire on this village for five hours Saturday night. More than a dozen buildings burned, and scarcely one was left undamaged.

Only two persons are in hospital. Thirteen others were treated for cuts and bruises.

Huge Crater

Gutted freight cars lay in a twisted mass around a crater 60 feet wide and 30 feet deep.

A 10-man army demolition squad was sent here to remove the warheads from several hundred unexploded shells scattered about the scene. Observers kept well away from the shells.

The survival of the 300 residents of the village in the face of such devastation appeared to be due to two factors.

The blast occurred a quarter of a mile from the town itself, and most of the people were gathered at the Masonic building on the far side of the town for an Eastern Star installation. The Masonic building, its broken windows boarded up, quickly became disaster headquarters.

84 Families Affected

The Red Cross listed nine houses and four barns as destroyed and 84 homes damaged. It said 84 families were affected. Two buildings in the small business section were destroyed.

Scarcely a house is habitable. Friends and relatives in nearby towns and rural areas took in the dazed residents.

It was impossible to count the number of freight cars in the burned wreckage, but the Chicago Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad reported 24 cars were unaccounted for.

The two persons in hospital are Dan Lyons, 82, who lost an eye, and Pat Stevens, 80, who suffered cuts and shock.

Coming Events

"Seeds! Send for Free Catalogue, Arthur Vesey, York.

"Card party and dance at Lot 65 Hall, Easter Monday night.

"Salvation Army programme and Sunday awards, Monday, 8 P. M.

"Dance Easter Monday, Mount Stewart Legion Hall, Burns Orchestra.

"We are pleased to announce the appointment of Groves MacMillan as exclusive Fuji-O-Pet dealer for the Covehead district and vicinity. We solicit your patronage on behalf of our dealer. The Quaker Oats Co. of Canada Ltd.

"Attention Farmers in Crapaud Victoria, Tryon, Carleton and Albany areas Our trucks will be collecting hogs on Tuesdays as usual, where roads are passable. If our trucks cannot get to your farm, kindly let us know where we can meet you and arrangements will be made. Robt. Dawson, Phone Crapaud 12-11 or 17.

Slocan

announced that Mr. Winch had tendered his resignation to a caucus of CCF legislature members several days ago.

Mr. Winch said he had offered his resignation because "I'm tired" but that the caucus had passed a vote of confidence in him and had asked him to remain as leader.

The resignation will be dealt with by the party's provincial convention at Vancouver April 10-12.

Campaign Issue

The campaign leading to the election may revolve largely around education financing costs, the issue which led to defeat of the government last week. The government proposed a new scheme of sharing education costs and claimed it would benefit municipalities. The opposition rejected the scheme, claiming it would run municipalities into debt or higher taxes after the first year of operation.

New England Cleans Up After Flood

BOSTON, (AP)—Northern New England awoke up Sunday after the worst floods since 1936 and folks downstream girded for new onslaughts by rampaging rivers.

The Weather Bureau forecast a new storm heading into the drenched region with the heaviest rainfall expected in southern sections.

The areas that appear threatened by new floods are the southern Connecticut river valley in western Massachusetts and Connecticut, the Merrimack valley in north-east Massachusetts and the Biddeford, Me., area around the mouth of the Saco river.

Hundreds were already homeless in low-lying sections of Biddeford and Saco with three of four bridges connecting the two communities closed as waters of the Saco lapped at their floors.

Burma To Drop U. S. Aid June 30

RANGOON, (Reuters)—Burma announced Saturday it is dropping United States aid June 30.

A government spokesman said Sunday the action is being taken so that Burma will be free to bring before the United Nations all the facts concerning Chinese Nationalists within her borders.

"The termination of aid will give Burma full freedom to expose the case without feeling under any obligation," the source said, explaining that Burmese ministers believe Washington is "interested" in the activities of the 12,000 Chinese Nationalists in Burma.

Both U.S. officials and Nationalists Chinese spokesmen have strongly denied this.

Police Find Sixth Victim Of "Moon-Mad" Killer

LONDON, (Reuters)—Detectives Sunday hauled up pieces of a buried corpse in Notting Hill Gate's murder house — the sixth victim of "moon-mad" killer.

The charred bones were pulled out of the backyard of the rotting, three-storey house and police discovered they were not part of the headless skeleton dug up Saturday — the sex maniac's fifth known victim.

Sunday's find lay buried in the scrubby yard near where victim No. 5 was pulled up Saturday, tucked into a rusty ashcan.

Police do not know yet whether Sunday's pile of charred bones are from one or two persons. They were taken to a police laboratory for an analysis which will show whether the moon-struck fiend's death roster stands at six or seven victims.

The analysis also will show whether the remains are male or female.

The killer buried victim No. 5 six years ago, police believe. This may

Housed Old-Age Pensioners And Mentally-Ill

LARGO, Fla., (CP)—Thirty-three persons died Sunday in a pre-dawn fire which took only minutes to destroy a private nursing home. Twenty-five other persons escaped.

"The fire just went through that building like they were burning dry straw," said William Hardin, 76, one of the patients who escaped from the flames, helping to safety another aged man who had to use two canes to walk.

Heroic Nurse Lost

All but one of those killed were patients of the Littlefield nursing home. The other victim was a heroic nurse who died trying to rescue others. Thirty of the dead were women.

The home, located in an orange and grapefruit grove about 4 1/2 miles from here, housed old-age pensioners and mentally-ill patients — persons not sick enough to be sent to the state hospital for the insane.

Some of the mental patients ran around screaming in a citrus grove after being rescued. Others, unaware of what was happening, resisted rescue efforts. Some fought to remain in their rooms.

From 55 To 95

The patients ranged in age from 55 to 95. The blaze, which broke out about 3:15 a.m., started in a part of the kitchen, spread through the main dormitory, where women patients and a few men were housed, then leaped to a smaller building where 13 men were staying. All the deaths occurred in the main dormitory.

Fire chief Peter Treola of Clearwater said the cause of the blaze may never be known.

At the scene Sunday afternoon, weeping relatives went from person to person asking if their loved ones had been saved. Occasionally a can of food in the hot ashes of the home exploded, startling the crowd.

Comb Ruins

Inside the roped-off ashes, remains of patients lay upon what had been their beds. Dr. Jim Norton, assistant county medical officer, combed through the ruins looking for bodies.

There were tales of bravery. Mrs. Gertrude Warnick, a nurse, pulled one person out of the flames. Then went back for another. She was not seen again.

Mrs. Aletha Herring, a part-time nurse, told how W. L. Littlefield, operator of the home, dashed repeatedly into the burning building to bring out patients.

Mrs. Herring, who herself rescued several persons, said that on one trip Littlefield "picked up two at one time, weighing about 300 pounds. I don't know how he did it."

WOODEN MINESWEEPERS

PORTSMOUTH, Va., (AP)—The U. S. Navy Saturday introduced its answer to modern sea warfare—the wooden ship. Two minesweepers of wood were christened the USS Bold and USS Bulwark at the Portsmouth naval shipyard. The wood is intended to counter-act the magnetic mine which was developed during the Second World War.

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Britain Paying Final Tribute To Queen Mary

LONDON, (AP)—Eight stalwart guardsmen reverently carried the body of Queen Mary into Westminster Hall Sunday for the last court of the stately old queen ever will hold.

At the end of a journey through crowded, silent London streets, the guardsmen tenderly lifted the coffin aloft and placed it on a catafalque for a public lying-in-state. Near each corner of the bier a giant candle, lighted at that moment, glittered in the sombre gloom.

Queen Mary's standard was draped on the bier.

There was only one wreath, fragrant with early English spring flowers. That wreath spoke of the family affections of royalty. "In loving memory, from her devoted Lilibet and Philip," was written on the card. Lilibet was the pet name of Queen Elizabeth when she was a little girl.

After the royal family departed, Prime Minister Churchill led the procession past the coffin. Directly behind him came Labor leader Clement Attlee, who delayed entering a hospital for an appendix operation to be able to pay his final respects.

Then the peers and peeresses, members of the House of Commons and their wives filed past.

Queen Mary's body will lie in state at Westminster Hall until early Tuesday morning. Then she will be moved to St. George's chapel, Windsor castle, for a quiet burial next to her husband, George V, and not far from her son, George VI.

The old queen, a symbol through her life of royal dignity and purpose, died last Tuesday.

Former Mountie Helps In Mau Mau Roundup

NAIROBI, Kenya, (CP)—A former Canadian Mountie is one of the men leading the drive to catch Mau Mau terrorists responsible for massacre of several hundred Kikuyu natives in the last few days.

John Timmerman, a native of Canada, is assistant police commissioner helping direct the hunt for the anti-white terrorists. He was formerly an RCMP corporal.

Hundreds of police raided the nearby Bahati African Location before dawn Sunday and started screening about 15,000 Africans.

Police said later more than 500 Africans were identified as criminals wanted for murder, arson and administering the anti-white Mau Mau oath.

Another 700 were detained because they were absent from their reserves without passes.

The entire Bahati area was sealed off for seven hours. Those arrested were later taken to a special detention camp, singing and shouting defiantly.

Troops hunting the Mau Mau gang which attacked Naivasha police station Thursday night and made off with sub-machine guns and other arms, ambushed some of the gang Saturday, killing one who was found clasping one of the stolen machine-guns. A rifle and more than 100 rounds of ammunition also were found.

Chinese Guerrillas Reported To Be In Opium Trade

By ROBERT HEWETT
RANGOON, (AP)—"The opium army" is what Burmese soldiers call the Chinese Nationalist guerrillas operating inside Burma's mountain borders with Red China.

They use that description because many Burmese, and some Western observers, are convinced the estimated 12,000 guerrillas are more interested in profitable opium smuggling than in fighting the Chinese Reds.

Burma accuses Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist government on Formosa of supplying and directing the irregulars. Chiang's government says it has no control of the irregulars. The force is said to be equipped with U.S. weapons.

The U.S. has denied giving any support to the guerrillas.

The irregular army is part of Chiang's defeated forces that were driven out of Yunnan province by the Chinese Reds in 1948. They are supposed to be poised on the Red frontier to harass the Communists. But Burma charges they instead are marauding the Burmese countryside.

The Burmese have complained to the United Nations about the guerrillas.

New Sabre Jet In Action In Korea

SEOUL, (AP)—The fifth air force has announced a new Sabre jet wing is flying against the Communist in Korea with an improved version of the F-86.

The new Sabre outfit is the 18th fighter wing. Until recently it was flying the older F-51 Mustangs and F-80 Shooting Star fighter-bombers. The conversion boosts UN first-line fighter strength by 60 per cent.

TO CONTEST FATHER'S SEAT
BELFAST, (Reuters)—Mrs. Patricia Ford, 32, daughter of Sir Walter Smiles, member of the British Parliament who drowned in the Princess Victoria ferry disaster Jan. 31, will contest the seat he left vacant. A meeting of 600 delegates Saturday chose her as Unionist candidate for the North Down by-election. Nominations may open about April 8.

Also Make Bid For Truce Talk Resumption

TOKYO, (AP)—The Reds offered Saturday to accept the United Nations proposal for an early exchange of sick and wounded Korean war prisoners, a move some sources saw as the first Communist step toward approving the principle of voluntary repatriation.

The Reds coupled with the offer a bid for resumption of the truce talks, broken off since last fall over that very issue.

Gen. Mark Clark said Saturday night his United Nations command favors re-opening the talks if the Communist offer is serious and forthright.

Clark Has Authority
In Washington, state department officials said Gen. Clark has full authority to go ahead at once with arrangements for the exchange if the Communist proposal is in good faith.

The Reds handed over a note at Panmunjom Sunday, accepting Gen. Clark's Feb. 22 proposal for exchange of sick and wounded.

In Washington, the state department said it regards the Communist note as an "unconditional acceptance" of the principle of voluntary repatriation as opposed to forcible repatriation of war prisoners.

The letter from the Reds suggested that the prisoners could be exchanged under provisions of article 109 of the Geneva convention.

This article provides for repatriation of sick and wounded prisoners but says that no prisoner "who is eligible for repatriation may be repatriated against his will during hostilities."

"This appeared to be the basis for the state department assertion that the Reds have backed down on their demand for repatriation even of prisoners who do not want to be sent home."

Views Move With Caution

Gen. Clark viewed the Red move with caution.

"We are going to study this offer very closely," he said.

"We want to be sure there isn't anything in it we don't understand."

At the United Nations in New York, chief U. S. delegate Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., sounded the same note:

"It is very encouraging if it is bonafide and sincere."

L. B. Pearson, Canada's external affairs minister and president of the UN general assembly, said:

"This is something we have been hoping would happen. So far as it goes, it is encouraging."

The Red acceptance covered only the sick and the wounded, a mere fraction of war prisoners held by either side.

The Reds claim they hold 13,000 Allied POWs, including about 3,000 Americans. The Allies hold 132,304 Chinese and North Koreans, of which, 9,106 are civilian internees and 123,198 POWs.

To Publish Result Of Crash Inquiry

KARACHI, Pakistan, (Reuters)—An official report on the inquiry into the March 3 crash of a Canadian Pacific Airlines Comet jetliner will be published next Tuesday, it was learned Saturday.

Five Canadian crew members and six British technicians were killed when the Comet crashed while taking off.

Man, Boy, Sheep Jump To Safety

CREETOWN, Scotland, (AP)—A man, a boy and 98 sheep jumped to safety from a runaway truck Saturday.

Hugh Love was driving the truck containing 100 sheep and stopped on a hill to examine his load. While he climbed up at the back of the 'e, it began moving downhill.

Love jumped first. Then 12-year-old Andrew Welsh, who was travelling in the cab, leaped to safety. The sheep, as sheep will, followed.

When Love got to the bottom of the hill he found the truck wrecked in a field, and 98 sheep grazing quietly. One had been killed and the 100th was badly injured.

Ice Brings Shipping To Halt Along East Coast Of Nfld.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., (CP)—Aircraft were called into action Sunday as stubborn ice brought shipping to a dead halt along Newfoundland's east coast.

A helicopter and two planes buzzed over the rough floes off near Logy Bay, where a seal hunter has been missing since he went adrift on loose ice Saturday.

Drops Food To Trawler
Earlier Sunday, a RCAF Canso dropped food supplies to the trawler Blue Haze, jammed solidly for five days a few miles off Bay Bulls.

The trawler, with a crew of 19 and a big catch of sole and haddock below deck, carried food for 12 days but ran out of supplies while battling ice on the trip home from the Grand Banks.

She once came within three miles of port here but was carried back down the coast by drifting floes.

One seal hunter, cold and exhausted, was picked by a hovering U. S. Air Force helicopter from Sugar Loaf rock, where he became marooned by the shifting, treacherous pans.

Seal Hunter Missing
But there was still no trace of William Dunn, 31, one of a three-man party who took to the ice as seals appeared in hundreds all along the shore. The three became separated at nightfall but the others spotted a light and reached shore safely.

While aircraft droned overhead, searchers picked their way over the ice carrying guns equipped for shooting lines to drifting cakes.

Only the old-timers can recall when seals last moved in on this part of the coast in such numbers. At nearby Pouch Cove, as many as 200 have been bagged.

The bring-em-back-alive men had their day too, and several city stores are displaying caged and squealing whitecoats.

10 Canadians Winners Of Sweepstakes Prizes

MONTREAL, (CP)—The Grand National steeplechase, annual fairy godmother to a sprinkling of Canadians, ran true to form again Saturday leaving 10 ticket holders richer by \$728,000.

This was the good news to holders of Irish Hospital sweepstake tickets but there was also rejoicing from lucky winners in the Army and Navy Veterans sweepstake as those who had the three first horses will collect \$94,000.

Three Canadians, all from Ontario, came in for the lion's share—\$140,000 each—with tickets on the winner, Early Mist. There were four holders of tickets on the second horse, Mont Tremblant, and three on the third, Irish Lizard.

Mont Tremblant gave its ticket holders about \$56,000 and Irish Lizard about \$28,000.

Mrs. Wesley Gardner of Hamilton, Mrs. Alda Micheline of Welland, Ont., and Mrs. Lena Ling of Forest Hill village, near Toronto, pocket the big money.

Mrs. Gardner, wife of a steelworker who has been on short time, plans a new home. She is the mother of four children and used the nom de plume "Guards Sweetie."

Mrs. Micheline, 63-year-old mother of six children, wept with joy and jubilantly declared she will build seven houses, one for her husband and herself and the others for each of the children.

Her eldest daughter, Mrs. John Valvasori, said later: "She's too excited to speak now and we've put her to bed as she has a bad heart."

Her First Ticket

Mrs. Ling, 40-year-old switchboard operator, said at first she hoped her horse wouldn't win because she didn't want a horde of salesmen pounding on her door. It was the first sweepstake ticket she ever bought.

Mrs. Charles Denhez of suburban Pointe-aux-Trembles held a ticket on Mont Tremblant.

She and her husband, a chemical engineer, were too excited to listen to a radio account of the race and learned of their good fortune from a neighbor. Overwhelmed, they said they have no immediate plans.

Mrs. Jack Paek of Elora, Ont., also held a ticket on Mont Tremblant. Both she and her husband are employed at Elora Industries Limited in this small town of 1,300 persons, near Guelph.

"I don't know whether I'll quit

Race Bitterness Grows In African Election Fight

By ARTHUR GAVSHON
JOHANNESBURG, (AP)—The battle cries of white supremacy which dominate the South African general election campaign have widened the gulf between races.

Fear and passion stalk the land over this issue as the tempo of campaigning nears its April 15 climax.

Law-abiding supporters and opponents of the government alike seemed distressed as musclemen continued to break up opposition meetings with eggs, tomatoes and stones.

The race-proud government of Prime Minister Daniel Malan meantime sent shivers down the nation's spine by warning non-white leaders to be "warned to 'kill all Europeans' in the rain armies in the night," and blood.

Non-white leaders themselves deny the charges, asserting they have forewarned the use of violence as a method of political struggle.

Basically all whites in this strategic chunk of the British Commonwealth want the same thing—maintenance of the present master-servant relationship. Their prosperity and comfort depend on it.

And just about all the whites agree with Malan's theory of segregation.

About half the country's whites differ from Malan over the way the Nationalists have set out to stay bosses.

The Nationalists frankly favor a stern rule to sort and separate the races, to keep non-whites "in their places" and so "save white South Africa."

Their solution, for example, to attack mounting native crime: Hire more cops, build more jails.

The united party, led by J. G. N. Straus, has promised to try to take race relations out of party politics if it is elected.

my job or not," she said, "but I think I'll take a little holiday for a starter."

J. R. Auclair of Montreal, a telephone tester with the Bell Telephone Company and a former transport flyer with the R. A. F., won on Irish Lizard. He is going to build a home, give his wife and 18-month-old son "a real holiday," and buy a new car.

Another lucky winner on Irish Lizard was a sprightly widow from Tipperary, Mrs. Patrick Ryan of Toronto, who said:

I ran every step of the way

(Continued on Page 5 Col. 3)



TORONTO, (CP)—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

	Min.	Max.
Dawson	12	39
Victoria	40	50
Edmonton	25	45
Calgary	28	46
Regina	35	41
Winnipeg	33	45
Toronto	36	47
Ottawa	36	46
Montreal	37	53
Quebec	34	37
Saint John	37	55
Moncton	34	40
Halifax	25	48
Charlottetown	25	45
Sydney	34	40
Yarmouth	35	—
St. John's, Nfld.	31	42

HALIFAX, (CP)—Official forecasts issued by the Dominion Public Weather Office and valid until midnight Monday:

Eastern N.B. counties, lowest Saint John river valley: Intermittent rain and patches of fog; very mild. East winds 20 increasing in the morning to east 30, gusts to 45. Low-high at Moncton 35 and 46. Fredericton and Saint John 37 and 48.

Upper Saint John river valley, Bay of Chaleur: Intermittent rain, patches of fog; very mild. East winds 15 increasing about noon to east 30, gusts to 45. Low-high at Edmundston 35 and 48. Campbellton 33 and 40.

Prince Edward Island: Intermittent rain, patches of fog; mild. East winds 15 increasing in the afternoon to east 30, gusts to 40. Low-high at Charlottetown 37 and 48.

Bay of Fundy: East winds 30, gusts to 40; intermittent rain and drizzle. Visibility 4 miles in mist lowering in fog patches to less than one half mile. Temperatures near forty.

High tide today at Charlottetown at 10:55 A. M. and 11:24 P. M.

High tide on the North Shore at 5:45 A. M. and 6:08 P. M.

Summer's tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.

Sun rises today at 5:58 A. M. and sets at 6:38 P. M.