

# N. S. GOV'T PLANS PENSIONS FOR CABINET MINISTERS

## Miners To Sign New Contract At Old Wage Rate

### Not Enough Planning For Future In Budget, Opposition Declares

OTTAWA, April 4 — (CP) — The Government was told today by spokesmen for the three Opposition groups in the Commons that it should have done more planning for the future in its 1950-51 budget.

Opening formal debate on the budget presented to the Commons a week ago, the spokesmen described the budget as one with a "negative" approach to problems; one that contained no plans to keep production and employment high, and one that did not meet the demands of the Canadian people for removal of the eight-per-cent sales tax.

The spokesmen were J. M. Macdonnell, chief financial critic for the Progressive Conservative party and member for Toronto Greenwood; M. J. Coldwell, C. C. F. leader, and Solon Low, Social Credit leader.

Mr. Macdonnell and Mr. Coldwell backed up their criticism with motions calling for votes of non-confidence in the Government. Mr. Low was prevented by House rules from moving a similar motion.

Mr. Macdonnell asked the House to express regret that Government policies make higher taxation inevitable; make no adequate attempt to eliminate extravagance and avoid unnecessary expenditure; and make no provision for a program of national development, without which there can be no hope of a reduction of taxation and the present high cost of living.

**Asks Non-Confidence Vote**

Mr. Coldwell asked for a non-confidence vote because the Government indicated through its policies that it was prepared to accept the present level of production as adequate for the Canadian people. This meant there would be a limit on the services and the security of the people.

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### Denies Rumors



MONTREAL, April 4 — (CP) — Viscount Alexander, (above) Governor-General of Canada, said tonight there was no truth to "recent rumors" he would succeed Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery as chief of the Western Union defence set-up.

Lord and Lady Alexander landed at Montreal Airport after bad weather forced them to cancel a non-stop flight from Gander, Nfld., to Rockcliffe, Ont.

The Governor-General was returning to Canada following a trip to England.

### Nova Scotia Coal Diggers In Close Vote

GLACE BAY, N. S., April 4 — (CP) — Nova Scotia coal miners voted by a close margin today to sign a new working agreement with Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation without a wage increase.

With all ballots counted the vote among members of the United Mine Workers (C.C.L.) district 26 was 3401 in favor of the new contract and 3223 against.

Locals in the Glace Bay area turned in a heavy no vote while main support for the move came from mainland units.

Two of the locals in this area voted 517-291 and 587-287 against while in the Stellarton, Springhill, and Thorburn areas on the mainland the votes were favorable by such counts as 645-51, 497-87 and 49-0.

The proposed contract, recommended to the membership by the district executive, also is to run for a two-year term. Previously the union signed only one-year agreements.

Minor changes will be made under the contract but the basic daily rate will remain at \$8.14.

President Freeman Jenkins said the union international had approved the no-increase recommendation.

He said about 68 per cent of the eligible voters cast ballots. He could not say when the contract would be signed.

When negotiations opened the union asked an increase of 26 cents an hour, a 50 per cent increase on long-wall loading rates, double time for Sunday work and statutory holidays and straight time for statutory holidays not worked.

The union also asked a 33 1-3 per cent increase on contract rates.

A company counter-proposal, which included a reduction of \$1.50 a day for miners employed by Acadia Coal Company, a Doeco subsidiary, and a 15 per cent reduction in contract rates at the same mines was rejected.

The company offered to maintain all existing rates if the union signed the two-year, no-increase agreement.

The vote was watched with keen interest by other unions in industrial Cape Breton, especially the 4,000-member United Steelworkers of America (C.I.O.-C.I.L.). The steelworkers also are negotiating with Doeco for a new contract. They now make a basic hourly wage of \$1.04.

### Gov't Disapproves Talk By Atomic Scientist

OTTAWA, April 4 — (CP) — Government disapproval of a Chalk River scientist's public discussion of the question of further Federal expenditures on atomic energy was indicated in the Commons today by Trade Minister Howe, acting Prime Minister.

Answering a question about a speech by Dr. L. G. Cook, chemistry research director at the Chalk River atomic project, Mr. Howe said he was "surprised to find one of my scientists discussing financial problems."

He was answering a question by George Drew, Progressive Conservative leader, about a speech yesterday by Dr. Cook, before the Ottawa Rotary Club.

Mr. Drew quoted press reports of Dr. Cook's statement that Chalk River "is at the crossroads" and the people should decide, through Parliament, whether Canada "should ante up with money and men and stay" in the world atomic race or whether "we should let our little fire run its course and flicker out."

The fire is Chalk River's one radioactive pile or reactor. A Commons committee recommended last year that the project be expanded and a second reactor built. There are no plans to start one this year.

Under British and Canadian systems of government, civil servants are supposed to advise their superiors on questions of policy but not to discuss them publicly. Informed quarters said Dr. Cook will probably be told of this view.

### Cost-Of-Living Index Reaches All-Time High

OTTAWA, April 4 — (CP) — An unparalleled advance in rents, combined with a sharp rise in food prices, pushed up February living costs by 2.1 points to an all-time high.

The cost-of-living index touched 163.7 points, compared with 161.6 in January and the previous high of 162.8 in July, 1949, the Bureau of Statistics reported today. The index is calculated on the basis 1935-39 costs equal 100.

The rent sub-index made the biggest jump. It rose 7.7 points from the previous peak of 126.0 in January to 132.7 in February.

The food sub-group, biggest single factor in the barometer's movements, climbed 2.7 points from 201.3 to 204.0, 5.2 points below the previous peak of 209.2 in July, 1949.

The combination of these two major advances told the story of a reversal of the index which started to come down last September. It dropped 12 points in the September-December period and then in two months climbed 27 points from December's level of 161.0.

Rent advances reflected the hikes in the Federal rent ceilings, allowing increases of 18 per cent on unheated and 22 per cent on heated accommodation. Most of the increases went into effect in February.

Food hikes mirrored a general stiffening of food prices. Prices were stronger in February for beef, lamb, eggs, coffee and fresh vegetables, outweighing slight declines for canned vegetables.

Of the remaining four sub-indices, only fuel and light showed an increase, but the four-tenths of a point advance put the sub-group to a new peak. The sub-index advanced from 135.9 to 136.3.

The miscellaneous sub-group, reflecting prices for medical fees, streetcar fares, gasoline, newspaper prices and other items, remained unchanged at 132.1.

Clothing and home furnishings both dropped. Clothing went down 1.6 points from 183.0 to 181.4. Home furnishings declined one-tenth-of-a-point, from 166.4 to 166.3.

These changes were shown at retail or consumer level. But on the wholesale side, prices looked upward, too.

The Bureau's index of industrial material prices advanced from 152.8 for the week of Feb. 24 to 153.9 for the week of March 24.

The index of Canadian farm product prices at wholesale level also moved higher, by 2.0 points, from 145.3 to 147.3.

This general advance of living costs in Canada appeared to reflect a trend prevalent in a great number of other countries.

The Labor Department, issuing figures compiled by the International Labor Office at Geneva, stated that a survey shows that the cost of living increased in 23 out of 34 countries during a 12-month period.

The increases ranged from a high of 27.5 per cent in Austria to a low of three-tenths-of-a-point in Sweden.

The I. L. O. rated Canada's advance in 1949 at eight-tenths of a point, the same advance was noted in Norway. The United Kingdom went up 3.7 per cent.

### Asks Question, Re Potatoes

OTTAWA, April 4 — (CP) — A report indicating the United States might restrict imports of Canadian potatoes came up today in the Commons' question period.

H. H. Hatfield, Progressive Conservative member for the New Brunswick potato-growing region of Victoria-Charleton, asked about the accuracy of a Geneva report that the contracting parties to the Geneva trade agreement have "agreed unanimously to let the United States take measures to restrict the flow of imports of Canadian potatoes."

He asked also if Canada had a representative at the meeting. The report said Canada agreed, in advance.

Trade Minister Howe said he would get the information and reply later.

### Distress Messages Possible Hoax

LONDON, April 4 — (CP) — Radio messages purported to be from "an American civil airplane" in distress tonight were labelled a probable hoax by the Air Ministry.

The messages picked up by the Ministry said an American plane was going down in the sea off the Irish coast. A Trans-Canada airliner and an R. A. F. Halifax rescue plane searched the area for several hours and found nothing. Airports reported no planes missing.

"There appears to be nothing in it," the Air Ministry said.

### Union President Is Convicted

SAN FRANCISCO, April 4 — (AP) — Harry Bridges was convicted today of perjury.

He and his two co-defendants were likewise convicted on all three counts in the Federal grand jury indictment.

The co-defendants were J. R. Robertson and Henry Schmidt, fellow-officers of Bridges in the C. I. O. Longshoremen's Union.

Bridges, Australian-born, is president of the union.

Bridges was indicted for swearing falsely in his citizenship hearing in 1946 that he never was a Communist.

The other men were his witnesses at the naturalization hearing. They were indicted for "conspiring to defraud the government" in helping Bridges get U.S. citizenship illegally.

Each of the three convicted men is subject to a term of seven years in prison and a fine of \$15,000.

Bridges, further, is subject to cancellation of the citizenship he obtained in 1946, and to deportation to Australia.

### NAMED FIRE CHIEF

SAINT JOHN, N. B., April 4 — (CP) — Appointment of Assistant Fire Chief Holland S. Knight as Chief of the Saint John Fire Department was approved today by the Common Council. He succeeds Charles J. McCuskey, who died last Friday. Chief Knight, 47, joined the permanent branch of the department in 1927.

### HUGE FISH CATCH

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., April 4 — (CP) — Largest fresh fish catch ever landed here was being unloaded today from the schooner Blue Foam. The catch, mostly haddock, totalled 326,000 pounds.

### Legislation Is Unprecedented In Canada

HALIFAX, April 4 — (CP) — Legislation to provide pensions to Provincial cabinet ministers after 10 years in the cabinet was introduced in the Nova Scotia Legislature today by Premier Macdonald. The legislation is unprecedented in Canada.

But such a move has long been discussed in both Federal and Provincial political circles.

Amount of the pensions will depend on the length of the minister's service in the cabinet.

It was learned the bill provides for a maximum pension of 70 per cent of a minister's salary after 14 years in the cabinet.

Generally, the pension system will parallel that for civil servants. The ministers are to contribute eight per cent of their salary but a larger contribution than that paid by civil servants — which will be matched by the Government.

Unlike civil servants, however, the ministers pension contributions will not be returned if they leave the cabinet, through death, retirement or electoral defeat, after less than three years.

### Explains Bill

Premier Macdonald took the unusual step of explaining the bill on first reading. He said he introduced it with "some embarrassment" but because it involved expenditure of money it could only be introduced by the government.

Nova Scotia cabinet ministers now receive a salary of \$8,000 a year. The premier receives \$9,000.

It was not known if the provisions would be made retroactive to include ministers who have already retired from public life or if the service of present ministers would count towards their pension.

No similar legislation exists anywhere in Canada.

But pensions for cabinet ministers and members of Parliament have been suggested on numerous occasions.

The arguments advanced for them have been that the salaries of cabinet ministers — regarded as meagre when compared to salaries paid for comparable work in other fields — have been too low and their expenses have been too high to permit them to make adequate provision for their old age and for their families.

One political source, who asked that his name not be used, said that there have been known cases

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### Skinner's Pond Contract For Boat Harbor Awarded

OTTAWA, April 4 — (Special) — Contract for the construction of a boat harbor at Skinner's Pond as provided in parliamentary estimates this spring is being awarded to the Diamond Construction Company of Fredericton, N. B. It was learned here today.

The Fredericton firm submitted the lowest tender of \$85,000, which was some \$2,000 less than the second lowest offer to do the work.

J. Watson MacNaught, M. P. for Prince and parliamentary assistant to Fisheries Minister Mayhew, who persuaded the government to initiate the Skinner's Pond project, told the Guardian today that work to be done this year would be excavation of a "run" from the pond to open water, construction of retaining walls on either side of the run, and the building of two "outer blocks" to protect the harbor from ice and storm conditions.

**Will Start Shortly**

Dredging of the inner lagoon will be done by contract which will be awarded in 1951. Estimate of the Works Department for this year's work is \$110,000 so it is expected that a surplus will be left over at the end of the current season. Actual work on the job will start within a few weeks' time, Mr. MacNaught said.

As is customary on Federal Government contracts, local labor will be employed on the project with the exception of a few key posts. Workers will be protected by the fair-wage clause which sets forth that wages to be paid are to be comparable to those paid for similar work in the district.

**Brooks Shore Wharf**

Mr. MacNaught further announced that he had received details as to size and materials to be used for the new wharf at Brooks Shore, Prince County. The wharf is to be built at the end of the public road at an estimated cost of \$5,500.

It will be 125 feet in length with an approach 16 feet in width and a head block 30 feet by 30. Substructure will be of creosoted pile and superstructure of untreated four-inch planking. Plans for the wharf are currently being prepared at Charlottetown and tenders will be called for within the next few weeks.

### Has Recovered



OTTAWA, April 4 — (CP) — Air Marshal W. A. Curtis, (above) chief of staff of the R.C.A.F., returned to his office today after more than a month's rest to recover from a siege of sickness. He left for Florida shortly after returning here from Exercise Sweetbriar with a sickness that put him in hospital.

### Smallpox Case Aboard Ship

GLASGOW, Scotland, April 4 — (Reuters) — A cargo ship bound for Philadelphia was turned around in mid-Atlantic and is making for Glasgow with suspected smallpox among the crew.

The vessel is the 9,500-ton Treglasson, which sailed from Greenock, near Glasgow, last Saturday on her maiden voyage.

In Glasgow itself, doctors today vaccinated 10 persons a minute against a smallpox epidemic which has killed two and put 20 others in hospital.

### Why Are The 'NO PARKING' SIGNS ONLY WHERE YOU WANT TO PARK?



TORONTO, April 4 — (CP) — Minimum and maximum temperatures: Regina 37, 58; Edmonton 19, 38; Victoria 21, 35; Winnipeg 23, 33; Toronto 43, 60; Ottawa 34, 37; Montreal 37, 38; Quebec 32, 37; Saint John 35, —; Moncton 36, 45; Halifax 33, 45; Charlottetown 35, 42; Sydney 34, 44; Yarmouth 41, 48; St. John's 29, 37.

### Official forecasts issued by the Dominion Public Weather Office at Halifax.

Synopsis: There was either drizzle, rain, or fog over most regions of the forecast district, and snow in the northern regions tonight. A disturbance centred near North Bay was moving northeast, and will centre near the mouth of the St. Lawrence Wednesday evening.

There will be no improvement in the weather Wednesday. However, improving weather is expected Thursday, as the disturbance moves away from the district.

Regional forecasts valid until midnight Wednesday.

Prince Edward Island — Intermittent rain and drizzle. Coastal fog. Very mild Wednesday. Light winds. Low and high Wednesday at Charlottetown 33 and 48.

High tide today at 12.30 A. M. and 12.10 P. M.  
Sun rises at 5.48 A. M. and sets at 6.45 P. M.  
Summerside tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.

**BORDEN — TORMENTINE FERRY SERVICE WEEK DATES**

Lv. Borden	Lv. Cape Tormentine
9.10 A.M.	2.40 P.M.
<b>SUNDAY SERVICE</b>	
Lv. Borden	Lv. Cape Tormentine
9.10 A.M.	10.30 A.M.

### Coming Events

- \*\*Mail your films to Garnham Photo Studio, Charlottetown.
- \*\*Dance, St. Teresa's Hall, Easter Monday. Auspices C. W. L.
- \*\*Farmers now booking Clover Seeds. Rush order. McGuigan & Boyle.
- \*\*Limited quantity beet pulp now available. Phone or write Beaton & MacRae, Winsloe.
- \*\*New Glasgow tonight — Show, "Prison Train" and "Tumbledown Ranch". Two big hits.
- \*\*One act comedy, concert, dance, Kelly's Cross Hall, Monday, April 10th. Starts at 8.15.
- \*\*Loading hogs at Fredericton until 11 a.m. and Colville until 11.30 a.m. April 6. D. L. MacDowell.
- \*\*Now booking orders for Grass Seeds. Place your orders now as supply is limited. Prices on request. Beaton & MacRae, Winsloe.
- \*\*Unloading car of Oil Cake, Wednesday and Thursday, April 5th and 6th. Wiltshire Dairying Co.
- \*\*Dance in the Canadian Legion Hall, Mount Stewart, Easter Monday, 10th. Music by Burns Orchestra. Complete sound system.
- \*\*By popular request repeat performance of Musicals by Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. MacRae, Loran McLellan, Baptist Girls Choir, April 11th, Baptist Church Hall.
- \*\*Come to the Crokinole Party in Brookfield Orange Hall, Wednesday, April 5th. Refreshments served. Game commencing at 8 o'clock. Admission 35 cents.
- \*\*Will be loading hogs at the following points each Thursday: Borden, Winsloe, Bradabane, until 11.30 A. M. Borden, Bagnall, Hunter River, until noon. Summerside until 1.30 P. M. and Kensington until 3 P. M. MacEwen and Casely.
- \*\*Notice. — Farmers. Now is the time to order your ground lime and cedar posts for Spring delivery. We also have Mill feed on hand at all times. Enoch Newson, Westmoreland. Phone 7-22, Orapaud.
- \*\*Farmers Attention — As trucks are not operating due to road conditions, we will pay farmers delivering hogs to stock pens, Summerside and Kensington 50 cents per head until road conditions permit trucks to operate again. MacEwen and Casely.

### Labor Majority Drops To Two

LONDON, April 4 — (Reuters) — The Government's effective majority in the House of Commons dropped temporarily to two tonight when Labor member James Glanville was taken to hospital with a fractured skull.

He was injured in a fall from a streetcar last night.

There now are three Labor and two Conservative members of Parliament in hospital.

### Heat Wave Grips New York State

NEW YORK, April 4 — (AP) — A pre-Easter heat wave gripped the New York area today. The mercury reached 78 shortly before noon in Paterson, N. J., and the weatherman said it would climb well into the 80's before sundown. New Jersey's previous official high for the year was a 74 on Jan. 26.

### BETTY HUTTON DIVORCED

SANTA MONICA, Calif., April 4 — (AP) — Bouncy, blonde Betty Hutton wept through the proceedings today as she obtained a divorce from Theodore S. Briskin, wealthy camera manufacturer. She obtained custody of their two children. The 28-year-old actress charged mental cruelty. When she filed the suit she said she and Briskin "did everything we could to make a success of it, but it was no go."

### Britain Plans For New Atomic Energy Works

LONDON, April 4 — (CP) — Plans for construction of a new atomic-energy works of a secret type were disclosed today by the Ministry of Supply.

The new atomic establishment—Britain's sixth—will be built at Aldermaston, near Reading, Berkshire.

The Ministry spokesman declined even to hint what kind of experiments will be carried on at the new works.

He indicated construction will require several years and a "substantial labor force" will be kept at work on it.

The spokesman said that "as in the case of other atomic-energy establishments, precautions will be taken to ensure that no harmful effect to the neighborhood will arise from the work to be carried out at this new establishment."

Britain's only active installation so far is at Harwell, Berkshire. Harwell has two atomic-

### TWO EPIDEMICS

CALCUTTA, April 4 — (Reuters) — Calcutta, has been gripped by two serious epidemics—smallpox and cholera—in the last three months, with a death toll of 2,385, official reports said today. Smallpox, which reached epidemic proportions early in January, has claimed 1,700 lives so far. Cholera, declared an epidemic Jan. 28, has so far taken a toll of 685 lives.

### PLANS SECOND TRIP

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., April 4 — The sealer Algerine, first back from the ice floes, today was preparing for another trip to the northern floes.

Crew members cleared about \$360 each for the two-week voyage. The Algerine brought in 26,972 pelts and the sale of flippers, a Newfoundland delicacy, accounts for the remainder of the crew's income.