

Date Set For Opening Pilot Boat Damage Suits

By DON HOYT
Canadian Press Staff Writer
SAINT JOHN, N. B. (CP) — A \$315,000 damage suit brought against the British freighter Fort Avalon, involved in Jan. 14 Bay of Fundy collision with a harbor pilot boat, opens here today.

Five actions, taken against the freighter by dependents of five of seven men lost when the pilot boat sank, have been consolidated into one suit to dispose of the claims in a single trial.

Furness Withy and Co. Ltd. of Saint John, Charterers of the 3,500-ton coastal freighter, has been named defendant in the action.

The plaintiffs, with the damages they seek in brackets, are: Mrs. William A. Murry and her five children, Mrs. John V. Cunningham

and two children (\$100,000 each and Mrs. William P. Traynor (\$60,000), dependents of three pilots aboard the vessel when it sank; Mrs. Marion Cosman, widow of cook Blanchard Cosman (\$35,000) and Mrs. Lavinia Johnston mother of engineer Ronald Johnston \$20,000.

DENIES LIABILITY

The case will be heard by Judge Reginald D. Keirstead, recently appointed deputy judge in admiralty to act in the absence from the province of Mr. Justice W. Arthur I. Anglin.

J. Paul Barry, Furness Withy counsel, said Friday the court had granted him leave to join the Saint John Harbor Pilots Association as a third party in the action. This means in effect that should a damage be assessed against the freighter, the court would be asked to determine if there was any liability on the part of the pilots.

Statement of claim entered by counsel for the victims' families

maintain the collision and deaths resulted from negligence and violation of anti-collision regulations. The defendant denies liability and says it was caused by negligence on the part of the pilot boat.

LIMIT \$213,000

Mr. Barry said that if an application is made to the exchequer court, the limit of liability on the ship would approximate \$213,000, more than \$100,000 less than the damages claimed. The maximum is calculated on net tonnage of the vessel plus engine room space.

Preliminaries were scheduled to open here Friday behind closed doors with the examination of Captain Baxter Powell and chief Officer Jenneth Slapp of the Fort Avalon.

Mr. Barry will be joined in his defence of the Avalon by Jean Brisset, an admiralty lawyer from Montreal who took part in a four-day transport department inquiry into the sinking here last month.

Lawyers representing the plaintiffs are all from Saint John, N.B.

Mediterranean

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there could be released for other jobs.

A MATTER OF TEN PER CENT

Also occupying the politicians' minds here is the first-class row that is brewing up the ship-building industry. The men who build the ships want a ten per cent increase in pay. And if you have ever been in a shipyard, caught in the inside of a hull under construction as the riveters are hammering away you will probably agree that whatever the shipyard worker earns they are worth it.

The men are in a strong position to bargain. Shipyards here principally on the famous Clyde in Scotland that turned out the two "Queens," at Barrow-in-Furness in England and at Belfast in Northern Ireland — are at their busiest, and the volume of orders on the books the greatest since the end of the war.

The overworked politician who is losing sleep these nights in trying to bring employers and workers together on the dispute is the Labour Minister, Scotsman Ian MacLeod. He describes the whole business as a "trial of strength." But there will be no clear-out Victor for either side.

THOUGHT FOR DISCOVERY

It is more than four years now since I climbed on the then-new Viscount turbo-prop I "Discovery" — registration number, G-ALWE. My destination was Rome, and I reached it in just over a couple of hours. Since that flight — one of the jaunts British European Airways offered to Press men here before the Viscount went into service — I lost touch with the Discovery as I knuckled over the European air lines.

But I knew where it is now. It is spattered in little bits just outside an airfield in Manchester, in the middle of England. Twenty people were killed in the plane just after take-off, and a mother and her son were killed in a house on to which it crashed.

This crash has interrupted for the Viscount, at the moment the most-used turbo-prop liner in the world, a praiseworthy safety record. It has had mishaps, but only one person has been killed.

Serious as this crash is, it keeps Britains' pride in the achievements of its aircraft industry intact. Into the Viscount family is now coming a later version, the Viscount 800, which has an improved performance. In a few years time the Viscount's offspring, the Vanguard, will take the air.

But what might be called for as a result of the Viscount crash is a strict investigation into the airport set-up in this light-for-space little island. It was only last week that a 60-ton Beverley troop transport, taking airmen to Malta, crashed into some houses just after it took off under the same circumstances as the "discovery."

This is sure to call for some questions directed towards the Minister of Transport here. Is the safety margin between the edges of airfields and houses big enough? If they are not safe today, what will the position be in ten years time when the bigger jet aircraft take to the air?

NEW REASON

I've heard many a reason put forward by some of the British here for emigration. But the latest to come my way is the most unusual. A couple I know here are trying to get up-stairs. Before they told me or anyone else they met a woman, the wife of the husband's colleague, who promptly told them: "You're going to Canada."

When they got over their surprise the woman explained that she sensed these things (she was, it seems, a faith-healer, as well) and she added that the couple could find everything wonderful for them once they got across the Atlantic. To all this, no comment.

BEWARE OF TOOTHACHE

The British are crazy about ships. Hundreds of them have just made a trip through some smelly dockside streets near London's Tower Bridge to look at a slightly scruffy 2,000-tonner called the "Theron." This is, however, a ship with a difference. It has

Mr. Kickham Reviews Federal Policies

That a false picture of government activity through the agricultural prices support program has been given the public was maintained by T.J. Kickham, M.P., in an address broadcast on Saturday. The speaker said that since its inception over \$400,000,000 worth of farm products have been purchased by the support board and resold to the trade.

Mr. Kickham said this program brought stability to farm prices by withdrawing a market surplus during heavy production and later selling during seasonal periods of low production. So far as this Province is concerned he stated that since 1947, \$3,100,000 had been paid to island farmers in subsidies on potatoes.

The largest amount being paid during the marketing year 1954-55 when farmers received \$2,385,000.

He also noted that it has now been arranged to have all fishermen come under the National Unemployment plan and outlined the system of increases for rural mail couriers. He said \$750,000 has been provided for the purpose and will include rural mail couriers having contracts up to October 1 of last year. The increased schedule is based on mileage, number of boxes on the route and the condition of the roads over which a courier must travel. Such increases will be made retroactive to last October 1.

The Kings County member said the freight rate reduction noted in the recent budget wiped out half of the rate increases of the past twelve years. He felt Maritimers would receive the budget with satisfaction. Mr. Kickham was speaking from Ottawa during a Parliament Hill report.

LITTLE SANDS

We were all deeply grieved and saddened indeed, to hear over the radio on Sunday, March 10, of the sudden passing at his home in Lower Newton of Mr. Duncan A. MacTavish. To his wife and family, and three sisters (one of whom resides in Little Sands) and other relatives, sincere sympathy is extended.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burhoe and family, Abney, visited in Cardigan on March 10.

Miss Mary MacPherson, returned to her school in Gaspereaux, after spending the week end at her home in Little Sands.

The writer is pleased to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Taylor of Wood Islands and to wish them many happy years of wedded life. Their many friends here and in Wood Islands, join in these best of good wishes. Mrs. Taylor is the daughter of Mr. Hector Compton and the late Mrs. Compton, Belle River.

Eagles have been reported seen in different places in P.E.I. recently. Last week, it is reported one landed on the roof of Mr. M.A. MacKenzie's barn, Little Sands.

Mrs. Donald (Lillian) Livingstone, Hopfield, teacher in Little Sands school, visited at the home of Mrs. Alex Blues in Little Sands on Wednesday night. She also was

just come back from the Anarectic, and has brought back with it some members of the two expeditions the Britain have out there. In all a dozen men came back, after spending anything up to a year on the fringe of Anarectica. Their report was in some degrees to be expected: for much of the time they were bored.

But I learnt one thing which might be useful if I ever get the pioneer spirit. If you are thinking of going to Anarectica and your teeth need attention, ask your dentist to overfill them if he can. Out there, the fillings contract. You won't get a cold in that climate. But you can get pretty violent toothache.

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AVIATION TROPHY

The McKee Trophy, presented annually to the individual making the greatest contribution to aviation in Canada, won last year by

Captain G.L. McInnis of Maritime Central Airways, is now on display at the office of Morton Dew, Ltd., Queen Street, Charlottetown. Capt. McInnis, a native of Murray River, now living in Rimouski, P.Q. was awarded the Trophy for pioneer work on the Dew Line in Northern Canada.

This marks the first time that the McKee Trophy has been seen in P.E.I.

OLD DESIGN

Designs for a parachute were sketched by Leonardo da Vinci in the 15th century, long before airplanes.

Rebekah Lodge Enjoys Program

The regular weekly meeting of Acme Rebekah Lodge was held on Thursday night with the Noble Grand, Sister Ruth MacLeod in the chair. The meeting opened in usual form. Correspondence was read and routine business transacted.

After the meeting, the following impromptu entertainment was put on by the members: reading by Sister Florence Stewart; group of original songs by chorus; reading by Brother William MacLean; piano selections by Sister Irma MacLaren; contest by Sister Hazel Hooley; Irish jig by Sister Francis Shaw and Sister Hilda Hilleche, accompanied by Sister Marion MacDonald on the piano; reading by Sister Marjorie Johnston "Your Welcome"; recitation by Sister Nellie Fraser; solo by Sister Florrie Beaton "O Erin Dear"; Dialogue "Dog-Ox Gone" by Sister Ruth MacLeod and Sister Florrie White; reading by Sister Jean MacKenzie; harmonica selections by Brother William MacLean; contest, Sister Winnie Vickerson; skit "The Goat" by Sister Florrie Beaton and Sister Hilda Hilleche.

A very tasty lunch was served

Montague Men's Ass'n Sees Films

The men's association of Trinity United Church, Montague met last Monday evening for the regular monthly meeting with the president, Mr. C.A. Shaw, in the chair. There was a very good attendance. A delicious roast beef dinner was served by a committee of the Women's Auxiliary. This was followed by a hearty sing-song led by Mr. Lorne Wigginton with Mrs. Alvah Brehaut as piano accompanist.

Mr. Arnold Wightman reported substantial returns from the recent minstrel show. The president thanked the director and performers for staging the show, and Mr. Ivor Phillips, as director, thanked all who assisted him in any way.

Dr. O.A. Johnston showed films and gave a talk on his recent trip to England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Switzerland with the Flying Curriers.

Mr. Shaw expressed his appreciation on behalf of the association to Dr. Johnston for putting on this excellent entertainment.

by the committee in charge after which a hearty sing song was enjoyed by all.

YEO

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Will Study U. K. Farm Methods

HALIFAX (CP)—James C. Kilchick of Carmen, Man. and J.E. Burbaker of Beamsville, near St. Catharines, Ont., sailed in the liner Corinthia Friday for England where they will spend six months studying farming methods in the British Isles.

The men are holders of travelling scholarships sponsored by Lord Nuffield to promote the interchange of ideas and information among Commonwealth agriculturalists.

Both men are 32 and own their own farms. They received the award from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture for efficient farm management and sound theoretical knowledge.

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