

Prominent Canadian Judge Dies After Long Illness

MONTREAL (CP) — Mr. Justice Wilfrid Laurier, 78, dean of the Quebec Superior Court and one of the great Canadian criminal judges of the last 25 years, died Wednesday after a lengthy illness.

Until taken ill last fall, Mr. Justice Laurier had presided over almost every important trial in the Montreal criminal assize—the Court of Queen's Bench—since 1936.

He sat alone on the bench for many years, giving him the opportunity to preside over such famous trials as the post-war spy trials of Fred Rose and Dr. Raymond Boyer.

The spy trials were the outcome of an investigation into leakage of secret scientific data to Russia, revealed by Russian embassy clerk Igor Gouzenko. Rose, then a Labor Progressive (Communist) member of Parliament, and Dr. Boyer, military scientist at McGill University, were both found guilty of violating the Official Secrets Act.

Mr. Justice Laurier sentenced Rose to six years in penitentiary and Dr. Boyer to two years. Rose went to Poland after his release.

KNOWN FOR STRICTNESS
The judge was a lean, dark-haired man who wore glasses to read and write and became known for his strict adherence to courtroom tradition and etiquette.

Once when a counsel appeared in his court without a gown, he refused to allow him to plead. And to make his point more effective, he refused to allow another properly-dressed counsel in the courtroom at the time to substitute for the lawyer who had shown disregard for tradition.

Mr. Justice Laurier was a former newspaper man having written a few years with Sherbrooke La Tribune with Senator Jacob Nicol, founder of the French-language daily.

When he was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1915, he joined a law partnership with Senator Nicol and became vice-president of La Tribune, a post he held until his appointment to the bench.

RULING RECOGNIZED
He occasionally sat on the Quebec Court of Appeals bench and one of his rulings in this court later became the basis for an amendment to the Criminal Code.

The case concerned an appeal by the Crown against a ruling in criminal court that a previous offence could not be recalled before a jury or a judge at the trial of a person for a subsequent offence.

Mr. Justice Laurier upheld the judge's ruling because such courtroom practice might be considered "prejudicial to the accused."

The ruling was confirmed in an amendment to the Criminal Code.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. **F.N.A.R. 2-1**

Possibility Of Earth Fault To Be Probed By Canadians
By RUSSELL ELMAN
OTTAWA (CP)—The possibility of the existence of a rare fault in the earth's crust in Canada's far northern Arctic which may contribute to abnormal variations in the earth's magnetic field was related here Thursday.

To test this hypothesis, a five-man scientific party will shortly Island.

Freestone Sales Reported At Peak
AKRON, Ohio (AP)—The Freestone Fire and Rubber Co. announced Thursday that sales for the first half of its fiscal year, ended April 30, were the highest ever attained in a six-month period in the company's history.

The company said sales totalled \$85,260,072, compared with \$54,872,230 for the first half of the previous fiscal year. The previous high for six months was \$81,129,397 in 1960.

Earnings for the first six months of the current fiscal year totalled \$29,744,150, equal to \$1.08 a share, compared with \$28,142,824, or \$1.02 a share, the previous year.

Interest Rate Edges Upward
OTTAWA (CP)—Average interest rate of this week's issue of 91-day government treasury bills edged up to 3.52 per cent from 3.50 last week, the Bank of Canada reported Thursday.

The small rise contrasted with a previous four-week upward trend which boosted the rate from 3.07 per cent on April 26. The treasury bill rate is generally considered an indicator of conditions in the short-term money market.

The Bank of Canada interest rate, set at one-quarter of one per cent above the treasury bill rate, advanced to 3.77 per cent from 3.75. The bank rate is the minimum charge by the central bank on its infrequent loans to chartered banks.

The bank announced that \$5,000,000 in 91-day treasury bills were sold by tender at an average yield of 3.52 per cent. Highest yield was 3.55 and the lowest 3.49. Last week's average price was 99.134 for an average yield of 3.50.

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