

# Minister Revives Efforts Fighting Polio Outbreak

In a manner in which the polio outbreak in this Province was dealt with last summer came under review by Hon. B. Earle Macdonald, Minister of Health and Welfare, in his speech on the Draft Address in the Legislature yesterday. Mr. Macdonald termed the outbreak "a moderately severe epidemic", involving eighty-four reported cases and four deaths.

The first cases appeared in June and were concentrated in Charlotteville and vicinity. By August, spread was occurring mainly toward the east, cases appearing on or adjacent to the main highways to Souris and Murray Harbour. The districts of Glenroy and Murray Harbour showed the highest incidence of involvement as well as a large number of the cases left with residual muscle weakness. Cases west of Charlotteville generally occurred later in the season and were sporadic in location, though occasionally severe in character.

All deaths occurred in males, one being a child, and the other three being young adults. The disease reached a peak in early September, and decreased rapidly toward the end of October, no severe cases being reported after this time.

The reporting of cases by the practicing physicians of the Province was excellent," Mr. Macdonald said. "Most patients were seen by a Departmental physician at the request of the family doctor within twelve hours being reported. Where necessary, advice was given with regard to the treatment of the patient, and measures suggested to the family as to the control of spread of the disease. Physicians were advised to treat patients at home if at all possible, and this resulted in a relatively low rate of hospitalization. In many cases, members of the Department visited patients in their homes at frequent intervals during the acute stage, and this close cooperation with the family physicians definitely contributed to the lessening of deformity among cases showing muscle weakness.

**GAMMA GLOBULIN**

Beginning early in August, gamma globulin was administered on request to all family contacts between the ages of six months and thirty years, as well as to all pregnant women who were contacts of a known case regardless of age. It was also available to nurses of polio cases in hospitals. The value of this material as a prophylactic was not definite, though administration was carried out as soon as possible after contact with a proven case was discovered.

When the extent of the disease became apparent, every effort was made to discharge all patients from previous years who were undergoing treatment in the Polio Unit. However, as the number of beds was strictly limited, it soon became apparent that other facilities for treatment must be provided. Accordingly, the most severe cases which had entered hospital were retained after the period of communicability was over, and physiotherapy was carried out under the supervision of the staff of our Polio Unit. Similarly, severe cases retained in the homes were seen at frequent regular intervals and exercises prescribed.

Early in December an order-in-council was passed allowing the remission to general hospitals in Charlotteville of selected cases from this year's epidemic where the degree of muscle weakness was severe, as well as certain cases from previous years which had begun treatment and which were discharged from the Unit in order to make room for more recent cases. This arrangement has helped relieve the urgency of the situation, but should be regarded as a temporary measure pending the provision of necessary space at the Polio Unit.

**TREATMENT CENTRE**

The Polio Treatment Centre operated at the Provincial Sanatorium has functioned to capacity during the year and its effect has been made known by the improvement in children and adults returned to communities throughout the Island. Our low polio incidence of last year resulted in more beds being available for persons crippled by previous epidemics. However, during the last five months of the year it was necessary to allocate almost all beds to new cases, and this has resulted in the accumulation of a long waiting list. It is apparent that we have many people who have been crippled in various ways, and who could benefit con-

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**HEAVY ALL WOOL** grey heater Blankets. Third floor special \$7.95. S. A. Macdonald's.

**"WE TREAT THE SICK WELL"**—Giggey's Pharmacy, open evenings 'till 8 o'clock.

**CAKE SALE** in aid of Sacred Heart Home at the Home Thursday, February 17th, 2 to 6.30 p.m. Bread, rolls, etc.

**LITTLE THEATRE GUILD** Studio Night, Thursday, February 24th, 8 p.m. Queen Charlotte High School. Note change in date. Admission by membership ticket.

**EGG PRICES**—Egg prices on Prince Edward Island as reported by the Livestock Products Division yesterday are as follows: Ungraded eggs delivered in Charlottetown, A Large 30, A Medium 27, A Small 22; graded pack delivered in Charlottetown, A Large 35, A Medium 32, A Small 27; retailers delivered in Charlottetown, A Large 42-43, A Medium 38-39, A Small 32-33.

**CARD PARTY WINNERS**—Following are the winners of the card party held in Warren Grove School, on February 14: Ladies First, Mrs. Laurence Molyneux; Consolation, Mrs. Robert Vickerson; Gents First, Gordon Jewell; Gents Consolation, Johnnie Edwards; Door prize, Mrs. Dave Ford, and Roy Bruce; Lucky Chair prize, Earl Younker; Lucky Cup prize, Douglas Jewell.

**Y'S MENETTES MEETING**—The monthly business meeting of the Alpha Y's Menettes Club was held on the evening of February 14th, in the Y.M.C.A. with a large attendance. The meeting opened with the Y's Menettes Prayer. Two new members, Mrs. Ralph Bearis and Mrs. Alton Dolliver, were then introduced and welcomed into the Club. The reports from the various Committees were heard and the Convener of the Ways and Means Committee thanked all who had helped to make the Y's Menettes Bridge such an outstanding success. The result of which amounted to \$67.25. The Club voted \$200.00 plan to visit friends in New York and New Jersey.

**FLANKING THREAT**

But from a general Far Eastern point of view the very great Nationalist army constitutes a flanking threat to any Chinese Communist attack in other areas including Southeast Asia. It is therefore a powerful deterrent to such aggression.

If the Chinese Communists are considering the possibility of new aggression anywhere in Asia, they have now to consider the possibility that this will precipitate general hostilities and that the Chinese Nationalists might then invade the mainland. Such an invasion might, for example, be the best way of forcing some future aggressive Chinese Communist army to withdraw from Southeast Asia.

Moreover, the present Chinese Nationalist army could quickly be expanded on the mainland by its absorbing expected defectors from Chinese Communist armies.

Seen from this perspective the evacuation of the Tachen islands itself strengthened the posture of free world defence in the area in any future general hostilities.

**FLAG WAS PRANK**

**KINGSTON, Ont. (CP)**—A Queen's University student said Monday he and two fellow student flew a Russian flag over the city hall Friday as a prank. The student, who did not give his name, told a reporter by telephone: "We were just bored and decided to have a little fun."

**FINE CATTLE**

The English Midlands have had herds of longhorn cattle for at least 300 years.

**In Memoriam**

In loving memory of my dear Bessie Ruth Rodger, who passed away February 17th, 1951.

We mourn for her in silence, No eyes can see us weep, But many a silent tear is shed While others are asleep.

Ever Remembered by Family.

In loving memory of my dear brother, James J. Davis, who died in Boston, on February 17th, 1954.

Gone but not forgotten.

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**PERSONALS**

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Miss Emma Holmes and Mrs. Elmer Mallett left Monday morning for a holiday in Boston, Mass.

Miss Edna LePage of the staff of the King's County Memorial Hospital, spent the week-end with relatives in Charlottetown.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ghiz left by car yesterday morning for Miami, Florida. From there they will fly to the British West Indies for a six week's visit. En route they plan to visit friends in New York and New Jersey.

The many friends of Miss Pearl MacEachern, formerly of Charlottetown, now of Debert, N. S., will be sorry to learn that she had to enter Victoria General Hospital in Halifax. She was accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Arthur MacEachern.

**OTHER CLINICS**

The Division of Dental Public Health holds clinics for the application of sodium fluoride and for the treatment of indigent children in the Public Health Centre at certain times each year. Clinics of the Division of Cancer Control are held weekly. It is hoped that clinics may be extended to the fields of mental health and crippled children during the next year. The provision of a full time health officer to take charge of public health ac-

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# Formosa Is Seen Flanking Threat If Red Chinese Move

**By PAUL SCOTT RANKINE** Reuters Staff Writer

Great importance is being attached in Washington diplomatically, as well as militarily, to the strategic potentialities of the present situation in the Formosa Strait, following the evacuation of the Tachen islands.

From this point of view the main pieces in the Formosan puzzle—the offshore islands, the morale of the Chinese Nationalist forces and estimates of Chinese Communist intentions—have to be placed in relationship to the present position in Southeast Asia, Korea and other danger spots along the vast island barrier now containing Chinese Communist expansion and aggression.

In this context the highly-trained 350,000 to 400,000-man army of the Nationalist Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has an importance transcending the mere defence of Formosa and the Pescadores.

It is recognized here that the Chinese Communists—have for some time, the air and naval strength or the supply system on the neighboring mainland that would be necessary for a successful invasion over 100 miles of water to Formosa.

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