

EGYPT THREATENS IMMEDIATE WAR

CHARGE PIG IN POKE

Unions Reject Railway Proposals In Dispute

MONTREAL (CP)—A railway contract dispute involving 150,000 employees sharpened at a short meeting Thursday, with a union spokesman accusing the operators of trying to sell a "pig-in-a-poke."

Union Cool To Prime Minister's Suggestion

OTTAWA (CP)—An impartial appraisal of the current railway union contract dispute was suggested Thursday by Prime Minister St. Laurent, but a top union spokesman was cool to the idea.

More Snow In Outlook For Sask.

REGINA (CP)—More snow and enough wind to cause ground drifting were predicted for Saskatchewan today, but the weatherman said there would be no repetition of the severe two-day blizzard which struck Monday.

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Chief union negotiator Frank Hall quickly rejected a proposal by the major railways that conciliation board recommendations be considered binding by both sides. "The railways proposed to the unions that they buy a pig-in-a-poke and enter into a prior agreement that the findings of the conciliation board yet to be appointed be accepted by them," said Mr. Hall.

Any hopes that the talks—resumed at the invitation of the railways after an earlier deadlock—would take an optimistic, pre-holiday trend were dashed at the meeting.

The 17 unions representing employees in numerous non-operating classifications are seeking an 18-per cent wage increase and a health-welfare-insurance plan. Total cost of the package to the companies has been estimated at 33 cents an hour and at least \$90,000,000 annually.

Current rates vary widely, but have been unofficially estimated at an average \$1.46 an hour.

Mr. Hall and other union spokesmen have urged a speed-up in negotiations which in other years have dragged on for many months.

Labor Minister Gregg accepted this request by authorizing appointment of a conciliation board immediately—by-passing the normal appointment of a single conciliator.

Mr. Hall, in his statement shortly after the meeting, said:

"The right of the employees, under the law, to reject or accept the conciliation board's recommendations must be preserved and this is considered by the unions to be fundamental.

"There is no precedent in the experience of the unions in such an important case to warrant a change in the pattern of collective bargaining and conciliation board proceedings."

HIDDEN DANGERS

SHOREHAM, England (CP)—James Perkins was working on his farm near this Sussex town when he plowed up three live mortar shells.

Strike-Bound Ferry To Resume Operation Dec. 19

OTTAWA (CP)—The strike-bound Bay of Fundy ferry Princess Helene will resume operations Dec. 19 under an agreement between the CPR and a striking union.

Labor department officials said Thursday the CPR has accepted an offer of the Seafarers' International Union to put its strikers back to work pending further negotiation in their contract dispute.

The ferry, operating between Saint John, N. B., and Digby, N. S., has been tied up since Sept. 30 in a work stoppage over the union's demands for higher pay.

Canadian SIU director Harold Banks telegraphed Labor Minister Gregg from Saint John that the union would be willing to return to work and give an undertaking that no further strike would be pulled without 15 days' notice to the company.

COMPANY AGREEMENT

Mr. Gregg transmitted this to CPR headquarters in Montreal, and late Thursday received word of the company's agreement to that arrangement.

By telephone, he then arranged with the union and the CPR for the Dec. 19 resumption of service.

The union members—about 50—will return to work under existing wage rates. Meanwhile, contract negotiations are to continue.

The ferry employees have been seeking the same scale as the CPR late last summer extended to SIU men employed in the company's west coast steamship service. This involves an average increase of about \$23 a month on the Fundy ferry.

Tug Puts Line On Freighter

HALIFAX (CP)—The salvage tug Foundation Frances chugged through a rolling sea toward Halifax Thursday night with the crippled British freighter Lord Church in tow.

The tug got a line aboard the 6,218-ton coal carrier about 2 p. m. AST after straggling 700 miles from Halifax.

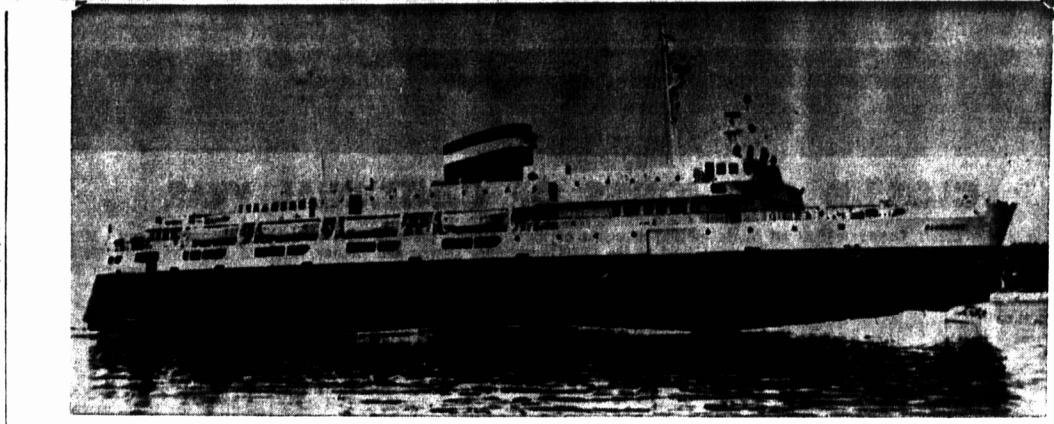
The freighter, disabled in a storm last Sunday and by waves and wind since then, was partly flooded, her lifeboats and part of her bridge smashed and her steering gear out of commission.

"BLUE HAZE" HOME
Meanwhile, another disabled vessel, the Newfoundland fishing drifter Blue Haze, finally reached port at St. John's, Nfld., at the end of a towline behind the sister drifter Blue Foam.

The Lord Church was not expected to reach Halifax before next Wednesday at the earliest. Bad weather could make it still later. Thursday night the Foundation Frances radioed they were making five knots, about 120 miles a day at this speed.

WARMING UP

DEBENHAM, England (CP)—A cow, rescued from a swamp near this Suffolk town, drank half a bottle of whisky before it was returned to its field.



Admiral Byrd Slightly Injured

WELLINGTON, N. Z. (Reuters)—Rear-Admiral Richard Byrd, 68-year-old veteran American explorer, suffered minor injuries when the icebreaker Glacier, leading ship in the American Antarctic task force, ran into a violent storm on its way south, it was learned Thursday.

Capt. Charles W. Thomas, chief of staff to Rear-Admiral George D'Uek, commander of the operation, has been in radio contact with the Glacier and scotched rumors that the Glacier was turning back because of Byrd's mishap.

He said she was forging ahead on her mission of leading the way to McMurdo Sound and she was expected to meet pack ice Thursday. He confirmed that the voyage had been extremely rough.

FREIGHT HAULS UP

OTTAWA (CP)—Freight shipments carried on Canadian railways rose sharply in August to 16,146,831 tons from 12,845,970 in the corresponding period last year, the bureau of statistics reported Wednesday. Freight shipments rose 15 per cent during the first eight months of the year to 106,287,109 tons from 91,842,954 in the January-August period last year.

Health Meeting Agenda Approved By Provinces

OTTAWA (CP)—All provinces now have approved an agenda for a late-January meeting here with a question of national health insurance.

Federal informants said Thursday the conference dates now are being worked out. All provincial health ministers are expected to attend this new round of talks stemming from the federal-provincial fiscal conference last October. There was no agreement in October.

The big question will be financing. Prime Minister St. Laurent has said the federal government would be justified in participating in a plan involving a majority of the Canadian people. But he has not said how far his government is prepared to go.

FEDERAL LIMIT

Those in touch with the situation here believe the federal offer will be to absorb up to 50 per cent of the cost within undisclosed limits designed to keep the federal share from getting out of proportion since health costs vary from province to province.

At the meeting, last October Premier Frost of Ontario suggested that the Federal government should take up 60 per cent of the cost of a plan that would embrace initially diagnostic, hospital and home care services.

The attitude of Quebec at that time was regarded as encouraging. Quebec Welfare Minister Sauve said that, while his province has its own form of health assistance, Quebec would still be interested in considering anything better that might be proposed.

Heavily populated Quebec and Ontario are regarded as the key provinces in any federal-provincial health plan.

OTTAWA CONCERNED ABOUT DECLINE IN HOG PRICES

OTTAWA (CP)—Federal agriculture officials are waiting to see whether a drop in hog prices to the federal support level this week will bring the government into the hog-buying business for the first time since 1952.

Government experts said Wednesday that if the meat-packing industry decides not to buy up the surplus and hog producers can't sell elsewhere at the floor price, the government will have to buy up surpluses offered to it. So far the government had not been asked to buy.

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Out United Mine Workers From Congress Of Labor

OTTAWA (CP)—The United Mine Workers of America, one of Canada's most influential unions, has been thrown out of the Canadian Congress of Labor.

The congress's Thursday announced its executive council has voted to cut adrift John L. Lewis' outfit, whose international office at Washington has refused for about a year to pay UMW dues to the CCL.

The CCL move evidently meets with the wishes of Lewis' office, though the stormy mine leader never has given the congress any official indication that he wanted to pull out the union. The Washington office just stopped paying dues, which now are \$30,000 in arrears.

12,000 IN MARITIMES
The union has 25,000 members in Canada. Of these, 12,000 are in the Maritimes' coal mines, 8,000 in western coal mines and 5,000 in a catch-all group known as District 50.

Information here is that Washington headquarters of the union—though it has never publicly stated why it wants to dissociate the UMW from the CCL—took its dues defaulting action partly because of the mergers of labor congresses in Canada and the United States.

In the U. S., Lewis' union has not been affiliated with either the AFL or the CIO in recent years and has tried to throw a monkey wrench into their merger.

Another possible reason for allowing the UMW to get thrown out of the Canadian congress is a contention of the union that the CCL has not been giving enough support to District 50 in its organizing work.

FERRY BLUENOSE PASSES TEST

The new ferry "Bluenose" has been accepted from its builders by the transport department and turned over to the government-owned Canadian National Railways for service between Nova Scotia and Maine. The Bluenose, built at Lauzon, Que., was delayed in delivery for over a year by mechanical troubles.

NATO To Strengthen Air Defences Across Europe

PARIS (Reuters)—The Atlantic council Thursday adopted a plan to co-ordinate fighter defences of Western Europe and Britain under the supreme allied command, delegates said.

Ministers of the 15-nation alliance, meeting in annual session here, also approved the first step toward a co-ordinated radar warning system for Europe to guard against any surprise attack from the East.

Under the plan approved today European fighter defences will be grouped in four sectors—north, south, central and United Kingdom—delegates said.

Gen. Alfred Gruenther, NATO supreme commander in Europe, has been known to want a radar network as effective as the United States-Canadian system now manned around the clock in the North American continent.

He has described air defence arrangements in Europe as "frustrated by an archaic command system."

Gruenther announced Thursday the U. S. has offered to finance two ultra-modern pilot communications networks to speed up air defence warnings in Western Europe.

TOT IS BEATEN

TORONTO (CP)—Police said Robby Figuery, 23, was charged with assault in connection with the beating of a four-year-old boy. They said Joseph Lavigne was admitted to Hospital for Sick Children suffering a badly bruised face and a leg injury. Figuery lived in the same house as the boy and his mother, police said.

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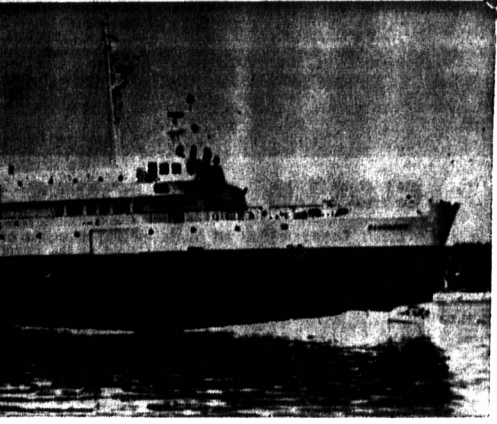
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Liner Queen Mary Delayed 30 Hours

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The Greek liner New York, arriving 24 hours late, reported encountering two hurricanes. Nobody was reported injured on either vessel.

Vital Statistics

OTTAWA (CP)—Marriages increased but births decreased in November compared with the corresponding month of 1954, the bureau of statistics reported Thursday. Death totals were virtually unchanged.

Births in November totalled 36,683 compared with 36,942 in November 1954, bringing the 11-month total to 407,103 compared with 399,689.

Deaths totalled 10,674 for the month compared with 10,671 and in the 11-month period of 116,608 compared with 113,376.

Marriages totalled 12,095 in November compared with 11,433 and for the 11 months 117,576 compared with 117,849.

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Britain Takes Grave View

CAIRO, (CP)—Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser said Thursday Egypt is ready to use her armed forces if Israel attacks the Arabs again.

In a statement to newspaper men, later broadcast by the government radio, Nasser said he had made Egypt's position clear in a special message to Dag Hammarskjold, UN secretary-general, and to the Security Council.

Reuters news agency quoted Nasser as saying Egypt will send "the whole of her armed strength" into action if there is any "further aggression" by Israel against either the Syrian or Egyptian frontiers.

Since the Israeli attack on four Syrian outposts overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Israel said 55 Syrians were killed in the raid, maintaining it was in retaliation for attacks on Israeli boats on the sea. Syria said 49 were killed.

Permanent under-secretary, summoned Israeli ambassador Eliahu Elath to the foreign office and expressed Britain's "grave concern" over the Israeli raid. He said Britain will support Syria's complaint against Israel in the UN Security Council today.

Later the Israeli embassy said Elath had made clear to Kirkpatrick "the retaliatory nature of Israel's action on the Syrian border."