Sees Killing Cold Defence In Arctic

MONTREAL (CP)—The killing cold of the far north is Canada's first line of defence, says the army chief of staff.

Lt.-Gen. G. G. Simonds, chief of general staff, said Thursday night the recent exercise Bulldog II and other manoeuvres showed that any massive attack across the polar region would face a "devastating" defence by Jack Frost.

But the development of northern communities and installations mean that commando-type raids would have to be fought off in the event of an attack, he told a press conference.

It would be a mistake to consider the sub-Arctic Bulldog exercise a failure just because some phases had to be called off due to weather, he added. The army had obtained valuable knowledge.

"If weather is sufficiently severe, it can defeat any operation," said the general. "Weather is our front line of defence. We must remember that the enemy, too, contends with it."

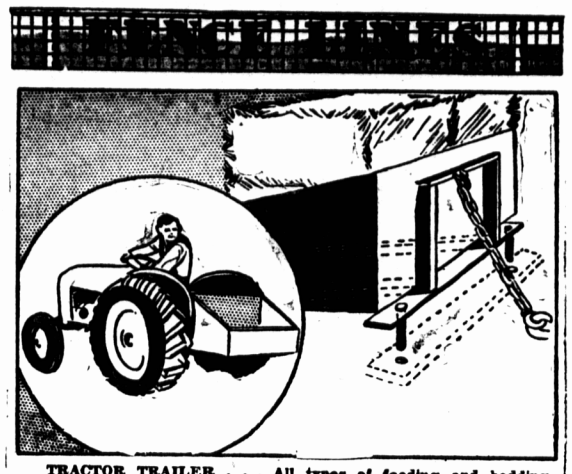
Bulldog had been merely one phase of a continuing study of far north operations.

Gen. Semmonds said he believes the army now has solved lubrification problems in the far north, and many problems found to hinder troops during the bitter winter months of the Korean War were peing worked out in the sub-Arctic.

One big problem was to find a wind-resistant cloth that would not make a noise when brushing against other objects.

Referring to Korea, Gen. Simonds said he hopes for the return of Canadian troops from there next year.

But, he said, "it's a decision that has to be made on the political level . . . As far as I am concerned, I hope they will all be back in Canada next year."



TRACTOR TRAILER . . . All types of feeding and bedding chores can be much easier with a tractor trailer. One shown can be detached from tractor by loosening two bolts and a chain. It's easy to back and maneuver, also can be lowered for loading or unloading.

Timely Notes on Silver Fox and Mink Farming

At Wausau, Wis., December 5th, Federal judge Patrick T. Stone ruled that the names "Silverblu, Royal Pastel and Topaz," terms used to describe ranch raised mink mutations, cannot legally be registered as trade marks. He also ruled that the Mutation Mink Breeders Association has no legal right to restrict the use of such names exclusively to its members and that the Association cannot register similar names with spelling variations such as "Silverblu." Judge Stone ordered all trade mark registrations obtained by EMBA cancelled. The ruling grew out of an action filed by Midwest Fur-Breeders Association of Minnesota against EMBA. EMBA has long tried to stop Midwest and other associations and breeders from using the terms in the sale of their animals and pelts unless they were sold through EMBA's marketing system. To be able to use the terms breeders, EMBA contended, had to be members of the association.

At Stockholm, Sweden, last week over 15,000 mutation mink were offered at Nordic Fur Company's sale. Buyers were present from the United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Norway. A total of 4,840 platinum males number ones were offered, with 3,826 sold at an average price of 122 crowns and a top price of 165 . . . A record attendance marked the opening of the first Canadian auction of raw fur skins of the new season at Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec) Ltd. last week. The entire mink collection including both Canada dark minks and EMBA offerings as well as collections from Independent Shippers, did rather well and reached price levels some 10 per cent above those of the previous year.

Silver fox brought prices 25 per cent above last year's levels at Nordic Fur Auctions, Stockholm, Sweden, Friday, Dec. 3rd. Blue fox was 80 per cent higher but quantities were too small for valid comparison. Top price for silver foxes was 140 crowns and top for blue fox was 190 crowns.

Lively demand and strong prices highlighted the million-dollar mink sale which opened the new auction season at Hudson's Bay Company's warehouse, Montreal, last week. American buyers dominated practically throughout the entire catalogue of some 40,000 pelts, including Canada dark mink, labeled and unlabeled EMBA offerings, as well as collections from independent shippers. Prices across the board were higher than last year's opening quotations, particularly in EMBA Royal Pastels (males advanced 10 per cent and females even 15 per cent), Silverblu, Cerulean and independent darks. Interesting feature of the sale was that percentage-wise the rise in females was higher than the one for males, and that the trade showed keen interest in smaller pelts.

The initial offering of labeled Canada dark mink from members of Canada Mink Breeders was reported 88 per cent sold at very strong prices, while the unlabeled collection, sold 92 per cent and likewise was very firm. Labeled EMBA offerings also did very well. Royal pastels sold 94 per cent, Silverblu's 75 per cent and Cerulean and Lutetia's both 92 per cent. In the unlabeled section of CMB pelts, pastels were reported 96 per cent sold, and platinums even 100 per cent. Canada dark mink (labeled 6,666 skins) XDK males were $18.50 to $30.50, females $12.50 to $17.25; XDK pt. dk males $21.50 to $28.50, and females $12.75 to $15.25. Unlabeled Canada dark (5,518 skins) reached a top of $25.50 for XDK pt dk males. General ranges were: XDK pt dk males $20.50 to $25.50, females $11.75 to $14, XDK males $21.50 to $25 and females $12.25 to $13.50. XDK and dk females were $11 to $16.75.

At Oslo, Norway, last week all of 2,800 high quality blue fox skins offered were sold during the first day of the Oslo Fur Auctions. Prices were about 100 per cent higher than last year's December openings. Top prices was 290 crowns and average price was 181 crowns. Most competition came from America with Italy also in contention. The auction lasted four days during which a total of 5,000 blue foxes, 2,000 silver foxes and 15,000 standard mink were offered.

Similar reports to the above come from the Manitoba Fur Breeders Association, Winnipeg, where a sale was held on December 8th. A wire from there states: There has not been such spirited bidding for mink in this city since 1947, according to I. Werner of Dominion Fur Auction. Of the 35,000 mink Sapphire was 100 per cent sold, pastel 96 per cent, darks 95 per cent, silverblus 80 per cent, breath of spring 80 per cent. At Little Bros., Fur Agency sale in Vancouver, B. C. 97 per cent of the 25,000 ranch and mutation mink was sold. The largest turnout of mink buyers in four years was at hand as prices reflected strong early demand.

Latest news from Oslo, Norway, is that blue fox was 100 per cent sold with average price 187 crowns, and top price 290; 2,000 silver fox was 100 per cent sold with average 116 crowns and a top of 350 —equal to about $47. Goods went mostly to France. Silver fox prices were about 20 per cent above the opening of last year. Platinum fox had a top of 195 crowns.

Our comment on the above is that there seems to be a great wave of optimism spreading throughout Europe and America, probably due to more stable conditions in France and the partnership which will very soon exist between Western Germany and the United States, Great Britain and France. Then again there has been the greatest upsurge in the stock market in the United States that has been seen since 1929 and everything points to 1955 being a year of unexampled prosperity, providing no serious friction occurs with Russia and its satellites. The encouraging news with regard to silver fox and its mutations will be welcomed by the breeders who have had faith enough to continue raising them and we are very glad to be able to chronicle this news in our column as the Christmas season draws nigh.

At a meeting of the Mutation Mink Breeders Association Harry I. Landon, a chairman, made known that it will adopt new trade marks to replace Silverblu, Royal Pastel and Topaz if invalidation of these marks by a Federal court is allowed to stand. As EMBA interprets Judge Stone's ruling, only three trade marks were ruled invalid — Silverblu, Royal Pastel and Topaz. Three others, Gerulean, Lutetia and Jasmine remain acceptable. As for the possibility of an appeal from Judge Stone's decision Mr. Landon stated an appeal is always possible and that the court decision is still being studied by attorneys representing EMBA. Mr. Landon further stated —"We feel that buyers who support the EMBA auction sales are entitled to the backing and prestige of EMBA national advertising when they sell EMBA pelts or garments made from these pelts. Our organization is planning to spend $300,000 this season on national advertising and promotion in the United States and abroad. In the past decade it has spent over a million and a quarter dollars in such promotional activity. EMBA continues to maintain an open policy regarding membership in the organization with membership available to any producer of mutation mink. However, since 1951 only members of EMBA or those in the process of obtaining membership were permitted to place merchandise in EMBA auctions."

Xmas Broadcast To Stress Theme "Good Neighbor"

LONDON (CP) —Theme of this year's Christmas Commonwealth broadcast is "The Good Neighbor" weaving items from many parts of the world into a message of goodwill.

Queen Elizabeth's Christmas message to her peoples around the globe this year come from the study of Sandringham Castle in Norfolk, where her grandfather, George V, started the series 22 years ago.

The Queen will be heard in Canada at 10 a.m. EST Dec. 25.

The narrator who links far-spread contributions is Rene Cutworth, one of radio's most experienced reporters, who made a name in broadcasting as a BBC correspondent during the war in Korea.

STUDIED PACE

Apart from the overseas delivery of transcriptions, another innovation is reduction in items, with longer coverage of each Laurence Gilliam, BBC producer, says it is hoped that this will enable those countries represented this year — they will change from year to year by agreement — to make a more impressive contribution.

A prayer, "Give us Peace", by Vaughan Williams, opens the presentation. Subsequent items include a nativity play at Luxembourg, an interview with a rehabilitation worker in Korea; from Australia an introduction to visiting Asian students, from Nigeria a scene of UN health organization workers; from India, UN agencies combatting disease.

After Japanese and English interludes comes a stirring story of Canadian origin—an interview with Marilyn Bell, 17-year-old Toronto schoolgirl who was the first to swim across Lake Ontario.

The last portions before the Queen's message are a sharp change in mood. They are a message from Hiroshima by the German Jesuit missionary, Father Hugo Lasalle, speaking from the Memorial Church of World Peace, and a word from one of Britain's most famous bomber pilots—Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, who with Sir William Penny was official British observer of the atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

Group Capt. Cheshire since the war has devoted himself to helping the poor and ill. Gilliam says that he is "perhaps the outstanding example of the 'good neighbor' in our Christmas story."

Preview of CNR Christmas Dinner

TORONTO, (CP) — Canadian newspaper women—with the occasional uncomfortable male sandwiched in—ate their Christmas dinner early Thursday.

It was the annual Canadian National Railways preview of the Christmas day dining car menu. In dining cars set off in sidings at Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Winnipeg, the newspaper women's page editors were served roast turkey with all the trimmings topped off by a traditional plum pudding.

CNR officials declined comment on how the meal affected the traditional railway dining car operations deficit.

Forecast 100 Traffic Deaths

MONTREAL, (CP) — The All Canada Insurance Federation Thursday predicted that 100 Canadians will lose their lives in traffic accidents during the Christmas holiday.

The federation, made up of insurance company officials, said speed is the cause of 50 per cent of traffic accidents, and also warned against drinking.

NATURAL INCREASE

Canada recorded 327 births for every 100 deaths during 1953, about 2½ times the natural increase rate of 15 years earlier.

POTATO PRODUCERS ATTENTION

Following the meeting of the delegation of potato producers who waited on the government about two weeks ago and whose representations were given sympathetic consideration by the government a meeting of the provisional directors of the Potato Producers Association of Prince Edward Island was held at the head office of the Association at Charlottetown on December 8th and the incorporation of the association was proceeded with. Application forms for membership will be available for distribution immediately through various producers throughout the Province.

It is suggested that all producers who are desirous of joining this associaton make inquiry through whom application forms are available.

REUBEN R. LARGE,
Chairman Provisional Directors,
Potato Producers Association of P. E. I.

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

THAILAND

Thailand formerly known as Siam is shown on the map of South East Asia in the shape of a question mark, that has been turned over to the right so that its back on the west and its top to the north rest against Burma. To the east, the Mekong River forms the boundary part of the way between Thailand and Indo China, and the hook to the south rests on Malaya. Thailand at the present time also stands as a question mark between the East and the West. Her name literally means: "Land of Free People." She has always been a self-governing state, except for the two years during World War II when she was overrun by Japan. She has proclaimed that she is positively anti-Communist, and will fight to the death if invaded by the Communists.

Thailand, or Siam as it was then called, for seven centuries maintained a gong that hung outside the Royal palace of Sukhouhai, so that anyone needing help or redress could strike the gong and gain an audience with the king. This custom started in the thirteenth century, and was only superceded when the last important Absolute Monarchy became a Constitutional Monarchy in 1932. Modern Thailand was born in a bloodless coup by patriotic young officers who had been educated in Europe. The world's most curious system of government was then set up. It has since developed eleven major revolutions and twenty changes of administration. Thailand in the 22 years has also had five different constitutions.

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Thailand is about the size of Spain, and a little smaller than Texas. Its area is over 200,148 square miles. The plain of the Menan Valley and the plateau of Korat (from 400 to 1,000 feet above sea level) occupy the greater area of the country, except for the long strip down the Malay Peninsula. The central plains are fringed about by hills up to 5,000 feet high. The northern section is hilly, with many rivers and streams that flow to the south.

Rice is the principal crop and supplies the country with its main food. It is also the main item of export and the source of most of the government's income. Rice dominates the agriculture of Thailand. The inner covering of the rice straw is used for feeding their farm cattle. The rice husks are so rich in silica that they are used in making very expensive glass. Eighty-five per cent of the people are farmers, and most of these own their own land. There is no record of anyone having died of starvation in this land of plenty. The great network of canals of Thailand were constructed in connection with the growing of rice; and it is said that almost everyone depends on the rice market for his livelihood.

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The government has the monopoly of the rice market, and pays a standard low price to the farmer, or what will keep him contented, and sells the rice, at an enormous profit to the rice-hungry people of Asia. In this way the government secures enough money to operate without taxing the people. Before the war, rice was a veritable gold mine, and the Thailand officials became overbearing and unreasonable. They bought burlap rice bags in India for twenty cents, and forced India, when buying rice in these bags, to pay them 55 cents for the bags. They issued some very unsatisfactory rules re the sale of broken rice, so that a reaction has set in, and now Thailand is holding large quantities of rice in storage hoping that the good old days will return.

The people of Thailand came from up near the great bends of the Yangtze River in China, more than 3,000 years ago, and settled in the very fertile valley that has a very kindly and almost temperate climate, even though its main land areas lie in the tropics between the 12th and 20th degrees North Latitude. The people are remarkably fortunate by Asiatic standards. They do not have poverty, nor those with great wealth ,and have always had a surplus of food to their less fortunate neighbours.

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The present Chakri dynasty dates back to 1782, and the reigns of their kings have been beneficial to the people. King Rama V, whose statue stands in front of the Throne Hall in Bangkok, freed all slaves in the state. Most of the kings of this dynasty have lived up to their royal sense of responsibility. The ten kingly virtues" governing their conduct were: "Almsgiving, morality, liberality, straightforwardness, gentleness, self restriction, nonanger, nonviolence, forbearance and rectitude."

Large areas of Thailand remain as unexplored, primitive jungle. There are great teak forests with trees said to be over 1,000 years old. Some of these trees are rafted down to Bangkok, where they are in great demand at high prices. Other rafts bring great qualities of bamboo; these rafts are usually held together with jungle vines, and have little houses on them made of cocoanut mats. It is said that the wild life of Asia can best be seen on the plains and in the jungles of north Thailand.

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There, great herds of wild elephants roam the plains, and in the rivers of the jungle there are thousands of crocodiles; the clatter of monkeys also echoes everywhere throughout the jungles. The wild red ox and deer that are larger than horses can be seen on the plains, while tigers, king cobras and python snakes twenty feet long are in the jungle areas.

The most remarkable animal, however, of Thailand, is the monkey that has been trained to pick only the ripe cocoanuts. He is said to pick over six hundred nuts in a day, earning big wages for his master. The monkey, with a long, flexible wire as a tether, climbs the cocoanut palm trees, and takes hold of a nut, then looks to his master, who shouts the Thai word for "Green" if the nut is not hipe, and the monkey then tries another nut. When his master shouts the word for "Ripe", he breaks off the cocoanut and drops it to the ground.

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The rivers of the north are mostly tributaries of the Choa Phrays and they were the great trade routes that led to the capital city of Bangkok. This wonderful city is criscrossed by canals that extend inland and supply water to the great rice fields that dominate the agricultural industry of the country. Bangkok is protected naturally from the monsoons of the Pacific and has become the great air cross roads of Asia, with sixteen world airlines using it on their way from Europe to China, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia. Its population has increased to over a million people.

The city of Ubol is larger and older than the capital. It is located on a tributary that flows into the Mekong River from the west at the Indo China border. In northwestern Thailand the new city of Chiang Mai on the Ping River now has a half million people. One of the latest National Geographic shows six airports within one hundred miles of this rapidly growing city. This map shows fifty-three airfields within five hundred miles of this city, including those at Rangoon Burma, Kunming in China and Hanoi in Indo China. The lack of railroads and highways is rapidly being overcome by the network of airlines for local air travel.

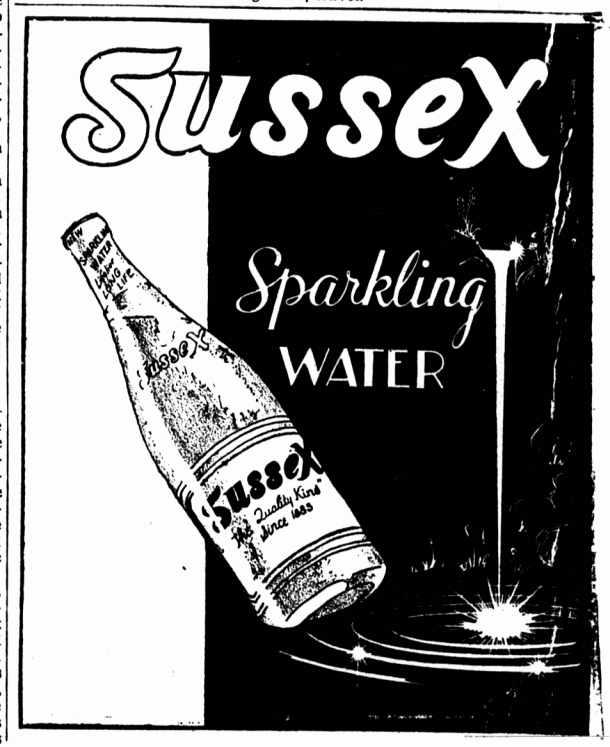
Holiday Travel May Be Heavier

MONCTON, N.B. — Christmas holiday travel this year gives indications of being considerablely heavier than last year, George Stiven, general passenger agent for the Canadian National Railways, said here.

Apart from the travel associated with students from the various universities returning to their homes for the holiday, there will be a heavy travel from Central Canada to the Maritimes. Second sections of the eastbound C.N.R. Ocean Limited are scheduled to leave Montreal the night of Thursday, Dec. 23, and Friday, Dec. 24.

ECONOMIC PROBLEM

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CP)—Economic conditions in the Maritime provinces and suggestions for action will be the theme of the third Atlantic regional adult education conference in Prince Edward Island next June. A preparatory committee met here to discuss plans for the gathering.



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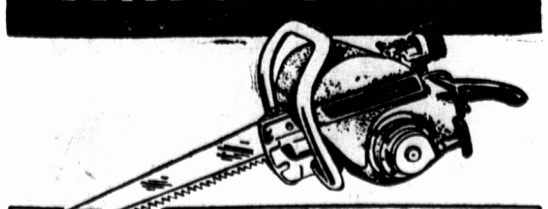

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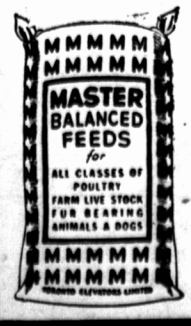

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