

COMMONWEALTH MEET
LONDON, (CP)—A Commonwealth relations conference convened by the Royal Institute of International Affairs is being held at Lahore, Pakistan, March 17-28, with Canada represented. The last meeting was at Bigwin in Ontario's Muskoka district in 1949.

PALATIAL FITTINGS
LONDON, (CP)—The City of Durban, 13,000-ton passenger and cargo ship destined for the South African run, has a smoking room with 18th century panelling and a carved fireplace from two old English houses. They came from Culverly Hall in Cheshire and Monks patch in Surrey.

C. N. Safety Award Winner Announced

MONCTON, March 11 — The regional vice-president and general manager's Safety Award for the district or territory with the lowest employee casualty rate for the year 1953 in the Atlantic Region, was won by the mainland territory of the region as distinct from the Newfoundland district. The Newfoundland district won the award for the years 1951 and 1952.

The award, which is in the shape of a silver plaque mounted on a polished hardwood base, was received on behalf of the officers and employees by R. B. Graham, assistant general manager, the presentation being made by W. E. Robinson, regional vice-president and general manager. In presenting the trophy Mr. Robinson congratulated the officers and employees of the mainland territory for winning the award and expressed the hope that the Atlantic Region would capture the system award for 1954. Accident prevention, he said, is a very vital phase of railway operation and every effort is being made to reduce the employee casualty rate to the lowest possible minimum, not only in respect of the expense of employee accidents to the company but also the loss of employee earning power with consequent financial loss to the employees concerned and to their families.

Instruction in accident prevention is a special branch of railway operation and there is a department devoted to this in each of the three regions of the Canadian National System—The Atlantic, Central and Western. In charge of the department in the Atlantic Region is A. A. Chisholm, with the title of regional supervisor of safety.

YORK ALPHA W. I.

The monthly meeting of York Alpha Women's Institute was held March 2 at the home of Mrs. Gordon Crockett.

The roll call was answered with an Irish joke by 23 members and two visitors. Plans for the Red Cross collection were made and the following collectors were appointed: Mrs. Ernest MacDonald and Mrs. Constable; Mrs. Raymond Watts; Mrs. Frank Watts; Mrs. Frances Vessey; Mrs. Reuben Watts and Mrs. Frank Vessey.

Reports were given by different committees and new ones appointed as follows: school, Miss Dixon and Miss McAssey; sick (South) Mrs. Reuben Watts and Mrs. Lloyd Vessey; (North-end) Mrs. Harold Watts and Mrs. Frank Watts; program committee, Mrs. Harry Swan and Mrs. Frank Watts.

Roll call for next meeting to be answered with a recipe.

Next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Raymond Vessey. Lunch committee are Mrs. Lloyd Vessey and Mrs. Leigh Vessey. A reading was given by Mrs. Dewar Swan. A grab-bag of 25c articles brought in the sum of \$61.00.

Adjudicator



Hugh Hunt (above), director for the past five years of the Old Vic Theatre in London, England, will adjudicate the Dominion Drama Festival finals at Hamilton, May 10 to 15. It is announced by Richard MacDonald, Festival Director.

Red Cross Home Nursing at Southport

Members of Southport Women's Institute recently completed a successful Red Cross Home Nursing Course. Instruction was given by Mrs. R. S. MacDonald, assisted by Mrs. Wendell Wood, Red Cross supervisor.

Throughout the course, members were given ample opportunity to practise the techniques studied. Emphasis was placed on the utilization of home-made equipment.

At the completion of the course the members presented Mrs. MacDonald with a suitable gift as a token of appreciation.

Those receiving certificates were: Mrs. Harold Anner, Mrs. J. J. Hayley, Mrs. H. H. Kelly, Mrs. Frank MacCarron, Mrs. Roland MacDonald, Mrs. Keith Mutch, Mrs. J. H. Reddin, Mrs. Leroy Rogerson, and Mrs. S. C. Smallwood.

BREADALBANE W. I.

The monthly meeting of the Breadalbane Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. L. S. Seaman on March 8. The roll call was answered by ten members by passing in work for Red Cross which included a quilt.

The secretary reported \$43 proceeds from a Valentine party. \$5 was voted for March of Dimes.

Reports of committees were given and new ones appointed: sick, Mrs. Allan Hickox and Mrs. Elton Somers; school, Mrs. Cuylar Matheson and Mrs. Ewen Todd; lunch, Mrs. Allan Hickox, Mrs.

haven't any money..."

"Yeah, I figured on that. But I figured if you was to help me—kind of take the responsibility and fix things up with Mason—I'd buy the stuff. I got my own battery and wire and caps and everything... and long as the well stands to be a total loss the way it is now, I figured maybe Mason would be willing to cut us in, for say an eighth, if we went ahead with it on our own and fetched him in a paying well."

"But you've got anhydrite down there—and shale—"

"I know what I got down there. I know all you're going to say. But lookit here, son, I was putting down wells over to Burkburnett and up in Smackover and all them places, when you was running around, losing the safety pins out of your three-cornered pants. If Mis' Mason, here, wants to make an agreement with us, say an eighth for you and me..."

(Continued)

Dark Lightning

By Helen Topping Miller

Synopsis

Gary Tallman, young petroleum engineer from Alabama, misses his bus in Texas and Mona Mason, wife of a cattle rancher, gives him a lift. Gary is injured when his car crashes in a ditch and the Masons nurse him back to health. He falls in love with Adelaide Mason but will not propose until he has a job. Gary suspects there is oil on Harvey Mason's land and Hickey is employed to drill. Harvey persuades Gary to remain until after the test. When Oliver Kimball, Harvey's son-in-law, accuses Gary of being the agent of oil speculators and the cause of difficulties encountered in the operations, Gary leaves, but returns at Mona's request, when Harvey is called away.

CHAPTER XXVIII

Gary said nothing about his departure. He had talked too much already about leaving and yet he was still here; that made him feel a little cheap. And though he would have denied it indignantly even to himself, he was still inventing excuses to linger.

He had promised Harvey Mason to stay on the job until he returned, and a promise is a promise. He'd help Hickey clean up the area around the well, and in the meantime something might turn up—a good job somewhere.

Bill came to say good-by. He was off to the Pecos River country. "I'll be waiting for you, big fellow," he said blandly, as he departed. "I'll nail down a bed for you—one with no corn-cobs in the mattress if possible—and I'll look the gals over; they're sheep ranchers out there—goats and stuff—all kinds of money. Might even find you a rich widow. Widows always have a weakness for curly hair."

Adelaide had stood by listening, her face cool and aloof. "Be sure, Bill, that she enjoys starving in weird places," she said nastily.

Gary felt a hot, savage surge of anger, but he kept his control, with difficulty. "I don't want any widow," he said curtly. "I don't want—any woman."

Her eyes blazed at him, her lip curled. "Did you ever see such a—mule?" she asked Bill, scornfully.

"All right," Gary flared at her. "I'm a mule! A mule has sense. He knows when he's licked, when the going gets too tough. He does not knock himself to pieces trying to do the impossible—he just quits. I'm a mule—and I quit. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll go out and clean up that slush pit." He stalked away and he did not look back.

He worked till he ached with weariness and then, very late, he went upstairs and threw himself across his bed. But he could not sleep. And he jerked erect, later, when someone tapped on his door and Mona Lee called anxiously, "Gary?"

He opened the door. She was standing there, and her eyes had an odd, excited look in them.

"Gary, Mr. Hickey's downstairs. Come down and talk to him."

"Hickey? What does he want? He got his check, didn't he?"

"Oh, yes, I wrote his check, but he wants to talk about the well—and I don't know what to say. You come, Gary."

Hickey sat in the living room, looking strange and stiff in his Sunday clothes. He was turning his hat round and round in his hands, and his toothless mouth was working as it always did when he had something on his mind.

"Here's Gary, Mr. Hickey. Now you tell him what you've just told me."

Hickey scratched his head. "I was telling Mis' Mason here—looks like a plumb waste to pull the casing on that well. Looks to me like we're mighty near down—did you take a look at that stuff we was drilling yesterday?"

"Yes, I looked at it. Sulphur in it."

"Yeh, and where you got sulphur, a lot of times you got oil. I figured maybe—you and me, we could make a deal with Mis' Mason here—it ain't going to cost her nothing, nor Mason either. I got me a little money—not much. I figured maybe—you and me—we could shoot the well."

"But, look here, Hickey—I

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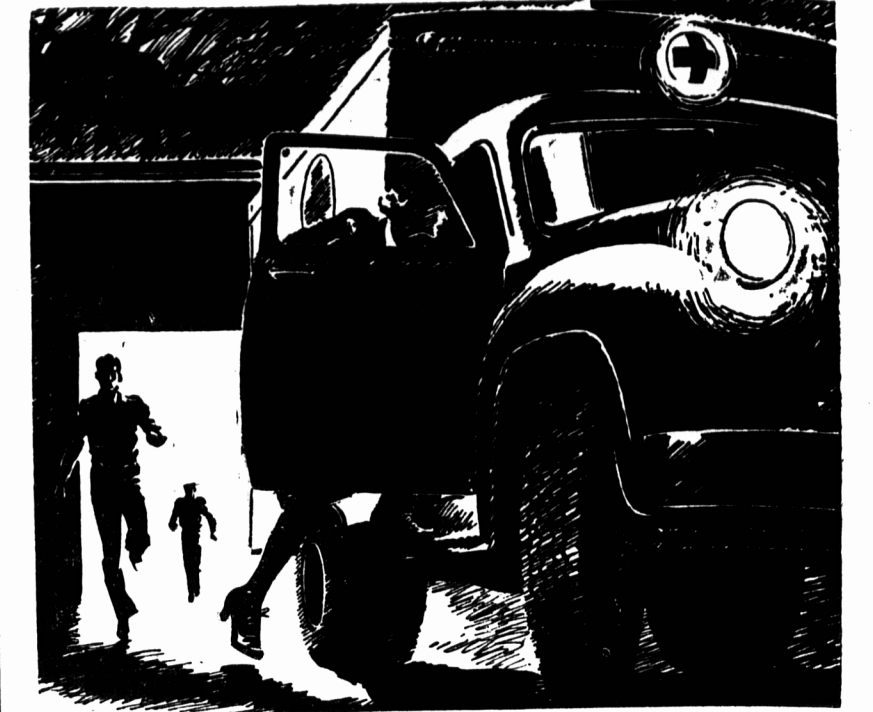
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