

Ice Build-Up Is Reported

SYDNEY (CP) — Northerly and westerly winds together with temperatures that have skidded to levels near the zero mark in the last few days have combined to build up ice in the southern half of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off Cape Breton Island.

The transport department information officer here, Capt. Ed Kelso said here that Corner Brook, Nfld., remains the only gulf port relatively free of ice. But the threat is not far away with heavy gulf and polar ice pressing offshore.

Capt. Kelso said shipping in and out of Corner Brook may require icebreaker assistance if weather and wind conditions persist.

Shipping in and out of here is using convoy formation with icebreakers breaking the way through heavy ice formations.

Capt. Kelso said the icebreaker John A. Macdonald has moved into the St. Lawrence River and will operate there indefinitely in a move to prevent ice jams and flooding along the banks of the Saguenay River.

Maine Governor Interested In Labrador Power

AUGUSTA, Me. (AP)—Governor John H. Reed said here a route for Hamilton Falls power through Maine is still a live possibility, and he plans to go to Labrador and Newfoundland in June to investigate.

Reed told a press conference he was disturbed by reports that plans for the transmission line from the mammoth power project in Labrador had shifted away from a coastal route toward one through Quebec and New York.

The governor said he called Newfoundland Premier Smallwood Tuesday and was assured that Maine can derive benefit from the plan and may yet be the route for the lines.

The matter was raised again last week when U.S. Representative Stanley B. Tupper (Rep., Me.) wrote to Reed urging close attention to the Labrador development as a possible stop-gap or substitute for the Passamaquoddy tidal power project.

Reed said that when he goes to visit Smallwood and see the site of the development, he will invite Tupper to come along.

Lesage Says Interested In Nfld. Power

QUEBEC (CP) — Premier Jean Lesage said in the legislature Wednesday he is interested in re-opening negotiations on the Churchill Falls hydroelectric project in Labrador.

But he said there are several conditions, one of them being that the British Newfoundland Corporation should be willing to pay a reasonable rate for the use of Hydro-Quebec transmission lines. The other conditions were not specified.

Brinco controls the Churchill Falls site and would develop the property.

Mr. Lesage told opposition members not to expect the price Hydro-Quebec would charge for the sale of electricity to Consolidated Edison of New York will be disclosed before the legislature committee on Crown corporations.

He said this would be against the public interest because Hydro-Quebec, a provincially-owned corporation, operates in a competitive field.

Earlier negotiations between Brinco and the Quebec and Newfoundland governments broke down, apparently over the price issue.

Blast Probe Starts Today

MONTREAL (CP)—The provincial fire commissioner's inquiry into the LaSalle apartment explosion opens today with testimony on the construction of the building shattered by the March 1 blast.

The inquiry headed by Fire Commissioner F. X. Perreault is expected to run at least three weeks and to be heard are scores of witnesses ranging from chemical experts to residents of the ill-fated apartment. The blast killed 27 persons.

Crown prosecutor Gerard Laganiere, who will question the witnesses, said Wednesday that, following the opening testimony on the apartment's construction, the inquiry will hear from various experts who have been investigating the explosion and then move to questioning of general witnesses.

The inquiry will be open to the public.

The breakfast-time explosion reduced the three-storey apartment building in suburban LaSalle to a rubble-filled crater. About 100 persons who managed to escape were left homeless.

NINE FIRE KILLS ONE

WELKOM, South Africa (Reuters)—A Negro died and four miners were reported missing after a fire Wednesday in the President Brand goldmine here. The mine owners, Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, said the fire was detected this morning in the mine's No. 2 shaft.

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