

Canadian Legion Convention Opened At Capital Today

The Earl of Bessborough, the Grand Patron, Delivered the Opening Address and Was Replied To by Major Roper—Other Speakers Included Premier Bennett and Hon. Mackenzie King.

OTTAWA, March 12—The Governor-General of Canada formally opened the Dominion convention of the Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League, here this morning. His Excellency is Dominion grand patron of the Legion.

The Governor-General was received on his arrival by the Dominion president, Major J. S. Roper, and other Dominion officers, and was escorted to the convention hall. He remained off the platform until the close of the formal tribute which was paid to Canada's war dead. He addressed the convention and formally declared it open. Major Roper made acknowledgement in suitable terms.

Premier Bennett, Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Robert Gardiner and J. S. Woodsworth, the leaders in the House of Commons, and Dr. Murray McLaren, Minister of Pensions and Health, also addressed the gathering of legionnaires from all over Canada.

EXPANSION OF THE FRENCH AIR FORCE LIKELY

Finance Committee of Chamber of Deputies Approves Vote of \$63,700,000 for the Purpose.

Paris, March 11—A rapid expansion of France's air force had been forecast tonight as the finance committee of the Chamber of Deputies approved a government request for 930,000,000 francs (about \$63,700,000) for new aviation equipment in 1934 and 1935.

General Victor Denain, minister for air, spoke in behalf of the project and told the committee that France will have 6,000 military and civil planes by the end of the present year. At present there are about 5,300 planes in France.

The total special air program followed close on the announcement by the government Friday that it needs a bond issue of 3,000,000,000 francs (\$195,000,000) to make France invulnerable in the air, and on the land and water. A bill providing for this issue was introduced in Parliament.

General Denain said today that the new planes which will be built will be the most modern available for warfare. He told the committee that he plans to reorganize the weather and signalling systems. More parachutes will be used than at present.

For Gas Masks

The Chamber voted an appropriation of 75,000,000 francs (\$4,355,000) for new gas masks for the army.

Special civilian training in the use of gas masks and emergency shelters during air raids was ordered by the government as part of the "war defence" education of the people.

HOME OVER WEEK-END

His Hon. Premier L. P. D. Tilley and Hon. W. H. Harrison, K.C., spent the week-end at their respective homes in Saint John, returning this morning to resume their Legislative duties.

Mr. Gorman, of Saint John, representative of the Fraser Co., Ltd., is in the city on business and is stopping at the Queen.

FOREIGN NEWS AT A GLANCE

CANTON—A major step toward the unification of China was taken today when Canton political leaders agreed to abolish their National offices and to accept a government appointed by the Nanking government, with which it once contended for political ascendancy.

PARIS—Premier Doumergue slashed 160,000,000 francs (\$10,400,000) off the government's expenses today to assure a balanced budget.

MADRID—A new commercial treaty between France and Spain had the approval of the Spanish Congress today, but it drew fire from Socialists who charged that France had brought unfair pressure for its rapid passage.

TOKIO—Sanji Muto, publisher of the Jiji Shimpo, leading Tokio news paper, was wounded critically today and a loyal servant was slain by an assassin who later committed suicide.

VIENNA—Reports that Prince van Starhemberg, leader of Fascist Heimwehr is to be minister, without portfolio, aroused intense interest. Richard Steidle, commissar of propaganda, will become minister of propaganda. This means the Heimwehr would be given a clear majority in the Dollfuss-Fey-Starhemberg government.

Halifax, March 11—A thrilling rescue at sea completed, the big Red Star liner Westernland sailed into harbor late today with the crew of the Halifax fishing schooner G. E. Levy, taken from their disabled craft a few hours before as she tossed at the mercy of a raging gale.

Death had come close to Captain Charles Hebb and his three seamen in the 14 hours they spent in the storm. Their tiny schooner was dismantled, and her storm-strained hull was leaking badly when the liner sighted distress signals early this afternoon.

TO BOSTON FOR TREATMENT—Ex-Alderman W. G. Quinn, who left on Wednesday of last week for Boston, will undergo an operation and treatment. The operation is not considered a serious one.

GLACE BAY MAN WILL PAY FOR HIS CRIME

Walter Wilkinson Convicted of Murdering Sister-in-Law — Jury Was Out Two Hours.

Sydney, N. S., March 11—Death on the gallows confronted Walter Wilkinson tonight for the murder of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Winifred Wilkinson. The 35 year old Glace Bay miner was convicted of murder Saturday, and next week Mr. Justice W. F. Carroll, of the supreme court will pronounce the mandatory death sentence.

After deliberating two hours and five minutes, a petit jury Saturday afternoon found Wilkinson guilty of shooting the woman following a quarrel in their home on November 23. Wilkinson heard the verdict calmly, just as he had heard the evidence through his long trial.

Witnesses had told of a quarrel between the pair that preceded the shooting of Mrs. Wilkinson as she warmed herself beside a neighbor's stove after fleeing her home in the early morning. Her 13 year old son, Douglas, was with her when she fell, a rifle bullet through her head.

The Chief Witness

Testimony of the neighbor, Mrs. Dan McLeod formed the Crown's chief evidence. She was allowed to tell her story to the jury only after defence and prosecution counsel had staged a "trial within a trial" to determine its admissibility.

Mrs. McLeod's testimony encompassed only 20 minutes—the time Mrs. Wilkinson sat in her home. In that time, she said, the youthful war bride, shivering in her scanty night attire, told of being chased from her home by Walter, who lived with Mrs. Wilkinson and her husband, William.

The witness quoted Mrs. Wilkinson as having said Walter threatened to shoot her. He was carrying a rifle according to her testimony and had attempted to enter Mrs. Wilkinson's room when she ran from the house with her son.

The boy, whose evidence was disputed also by the defence lawyers, said he could remember nothing of this conversation. Nor had he seen his uncle with a gun, according to his story before the jury.

But Mrs. McLeod said the young victim had spoken fearfully of a gun only a minute or so before she was shot. "Only for your son opening the door he would have shot me", the witness said Mrs. Wilkinson had told her. And she said Mrs. Wilkinson feared "Walter was liable to shoot through the window".

IMPORTED CONFECTIONERY WILL BE TAXED

Ottawa, March 11—Imported sugar candy and confectionery will in future pay the two cent excise tax with the domestic product has been subject to since the last budget. The department of national revenue has issued an announcement that from March 12 the tax will be applied.

The idea, it is understood, is to equalize the tax in its application to the domestic and imported products. At the last session the government was empowered to impose the sugar tax on imported goods if it saw fit to do so. The tax has not, however been applied up to the present time.

WESTERN M.P. ATTACKS RADIO COMMISSION

Declares It Is An Absolute Waste of Public Money

M. P.'s SHOUT HEAR! HEAR!

Assault on Commission Was Ruled Out of Order

Ottawa, March 12—Approving choruses of "hear, hear" from some 20 members of the House of Commons Friday evening greeted the declaration of Olaf Hanson (Liberal, Skeena) that the Federal Radio Commission "is an absolute waste of public money and should be abolished."

Running a brief course before being ruled out of order by Acting Chairman John R. MacNicol (Conservative, Northwest Toronto), the session's first assault on the Radio Commission developed out of discussion of the Marine Department estimates and featured a day's sitting which was otherwise devoted to concluding the debate on the second reading stage of the Central Bank Bill and to discussing also, in connection with the marine estimates, the alleged need of the Maritimes and the Gaspé district in Quebec for additional navigation schools so that the youth of the provinces by the sea might have a suitable calling opened to them.

Of particular interest to Quebec was a brief statement which Hon. Alfred Durand, Minister of Marine, made during the day to the effect that a committee of inter-departmental engineers was already investigating the problem of the low St. Lawrence River.

C.C.F. COUNCIL OF ONTARIO IS SUSPENDED

TORONTO, March 11—The Ontario provincial council of the Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation was suspended by President J. S. Woodsworth of the national executive at a meeting of the provincial council here late Saturday. The president announced complete reorganization of the Ontario body will be carried out.

A lengthy discussion concerning the affairs of the entire organization was precipitated by a resolution of the C.C.F. Clubs group urging expulsion of the Labor conference. A deadlock followed and President Woodsworth made his pronouncement.

The United Farmers of Ontario group of the C.C.F. had no representatives at the meeting. But a communication from that branch announced its withdrawal as of Mar. 1.

THIRTY WOMEN ARRESTED IN GAMBLING RAID

to cook my supper on time from now on, or else—just stay here!"

This phrase with variations was repeated frequently in a police station here Saturday night as frantic calls brought husbands down to the station to hear pleas from their respective wives to bail them out.

The charge against 30 women was "found in a gambling den." A provincial police raid, planned and executed with the assistance of several husbands and others who depend on the deft touch to lend piquancy to their meals, resulted in the wholesale arrests of the women in a West End establishment. Police claim it was a high-class betting resort with direct wires to southern race tracks and boasting of a clientele of the city's great and near-great.

P. E. Island Sends Brief to Ottawa On Chain Stores

Suggestions Put Forward by the Board of Trade; Would Have Compelling Manufacturers To Sell at Uniform Prices—Wants Tax on Mail Order Sales.

OTTAWA, March 12—From Prince Edward Island in the East and Saskatchewan in the West the Stevens Parliamentary Committee received suggestions for the regulation of retail merchandising so as to maintain the place of ethical standard declaredly essential to the national well-being.

Saskatchewan intimated that it was preparing to handle the problem provincially by controlling retail outlets by a system of licensing.

The Prince Edward Island suggestions, emanating from the Charlottetown Board of Trade through a brief filed with the committee, contemplated a wide program of Federal legislation, including:

A Canadian trade commission with wide powers over all trade matters similar to those wielded by the Railway Commission.

A law compelling manufacturers to sell at uniform prices to all retail accounts and to all wholesale accounts respectively.

A tax upon all sales by mail order made by stores beyond the confines of the provinces in which they were located.

DEBATED ON LIGHT WINES AND BEER IN HOTELS

An interesting debate on a question of much provincial dispute was held at the regular Sunday afternoon session of the Wilmot Men's Brotherhood when a debating team from U. N. B. engaged in wordy combat with a team of the Brotherhood. The resolution was "Resolved that this house favors the sale of light wines and beer in hotels and restaurants in New Brunswick". The negative upheld by the Wilmot Brotherhood team, composed of Messrs. F. T. Pridham and Vernon Box, earned the decision of the judges on their better presentation and superior argument. The affirmative argument was supported by S. G. L. Horner of Selsey, England and A. R. Hubbard, Gagetown, both freshmen at the University of New Brunswick.

The judges were Dr. A. S. McFarlane, chief superintendent of Education for New Brunswick; Dr. H. H. Hagerman, principal of the Provincial Normal School; and B. Lewis, graduate of Mount Allison University. A large number of students were present as well as members of the Brotherhood.

The winning side presented clear concise argument and their examples were forceful and their presentation clear. The losers on the other hand lost out more by their obviously less knowledge of the subject and its presentation. The winners showed careful preparation of their data. Among the chief arguments arraigned against the resolution was the indictment that it would increase drinking among the younger people. The affirmative supported the opinion of the beneficent effects of light drinks and cited instances of famous aviators and athletes who indulged moderately in alcoholic beverage.

A male quartet composed of Fred Barker, Gordon R. Foster, Raymond Crowdon and F. T. Pridham sang during the afternoon. Gordon R. Foster, president of the Wilmot Men's Brotherhood, was in the chair.

COMMITTEES AT OTTAWA IN FOR BUSY TIME

OTTAWA, March 11—Parliament goes into the eighth week of the session with practically all contentious government legislation so far introduced safely past second reading and in the hands of committees, and nothing in the offing to indicate any acrimonious House debates for the immediate future.

Interest therefore passes to the committees where it is anticipated some lively discussions will take place this week. The banking and commerce committee meets on Tuesday with both the bank revision Act and the central bank bill before it.

Wednesday the Stevens committee on mass buying will also resume and on the same day the civil service committee will get down to work on the bill to set up a bureau of translations.

There is a strong feeling prevalent about Parliament Hill the Government will shortly make an announcement with respect to the restoration of civil service salaries, which were reduced by 10 per cent two years ago. Also that the budget, when it is brought down, will show some taxation relief, probably including a reduction or elimination of the sugar tax.

FIREMEN BUSY

Firemen were kept on their toes over the week-end, the dip of the mercury causing citizens to heap on any available fuel, resulting in several small fires. On Sunday morning the first call from the home of Hugh Titus, Brunswick street. A small chimney fire was in progress. An over-heated pipe and chimney fire brought the department of the home of Charles Ross, Queen Street later Sunday morning. In the afternoon they handled a chimney fire at the home of Frank VanStone in Charlotte Street. In all cases, little or no damage resulted.

There are some people who get all dressed up when what they need is a dressing down.