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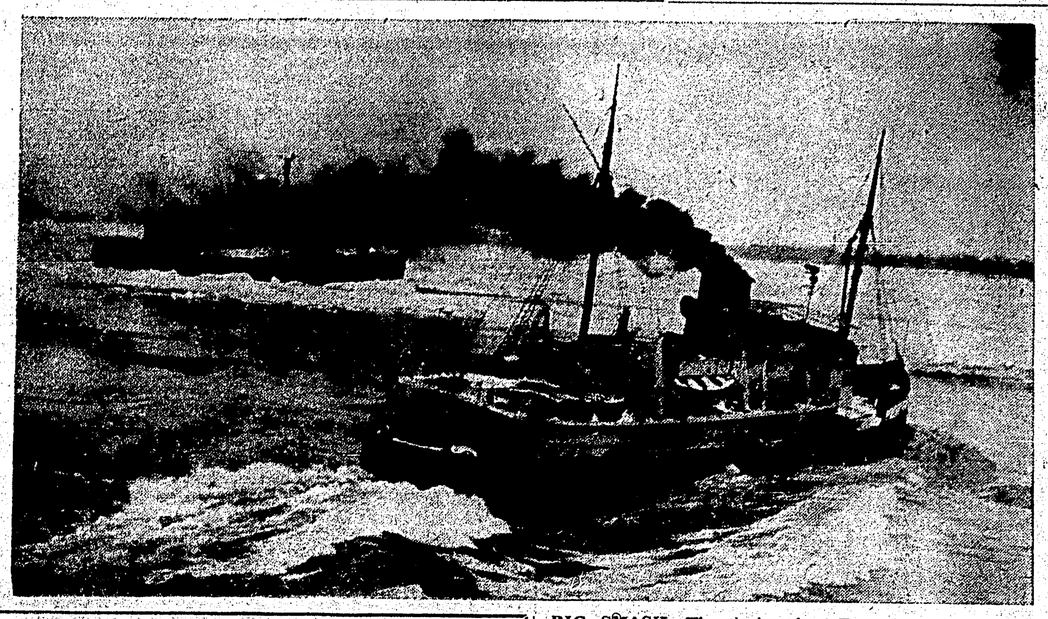
Crime increasing too fast for RCMP; breaking, entering, theft multiply



BIG SMASH—The icebreaker Ernest Lapointe heels over as she swings hard to port before crashing into an ice jam ahead of her sister ship D'Iberville. The two ships were working in the eastern section of Montreal harbor in the final drive to free 12 ocean ships trapped at their berths by ice. The ships finally broke out of the harbor Wednesday, and today were sailing towards the St. Lawrence Gulf. —CP Wirephoto.

More bootlegging, fewer murders

OTTAWA (CP)—The RCMP says a general upward trend in crime is piling up cases faster than it can add men to the force.

The RCMP handled 283,460 investigations in the year ended last March 31, an over-all increase of 19 per cent, says the annual report of Commissioner L. H. Nicholson, tabled today in the Commons.

"While the increases are not as sharp as last year, the upward trend persists," he said. The increases were "spread generally throughout the country with no major crime pattern present other than a rise in the number of breaking. entering and theft cases."

CASES UP 75 PER CENT

The commissioner said the number of RCMP cases had increased by 73.7 per cent in the last five years while the regular staff increase had been only 15.3 per cent.

The annual statistics represent work conducted by land, sea and air in the North, in eight provinces—Ontario and Quebec excluded—where the RCMP operates as the provincial police force by agreement, and throughout Canada where the RCMP handles breaches of federal statutes. They do not cover cases handled by the RCMP under separate contracts with 123 cities, towns and municipalities.

Reporting on the "growing pressure to present the force as a tourist attraction," he said:

"While it may be a compliment to realize that visitors to Canada are anxious to see men in our traditional uniform, I feel that this tendency must be kept within reasonable bounds."

GENERAL INCREASES

The report shows that offences under the Criminal Code rose to 68,462, up 22.9 per cent from 1956-57 year; investigations of federal statute infractions — smuggling, bootlegging and the like—increased 23.2 per cent to 58,451; and those under provincial statute to 156,547, up 16 per cent.

The force concluded 272,577 of the 283,460 cases, terming 93.3 per cent successful. It attributed the increase in Criminal Code cases—largest in recent years—to perjury and false pretences charges arising from investigations under Alberta's Gas Royalties Dividend Act, more driving offences and more break-ins.

Murder cases dropped to 34 from 44 a year earlier.

Traffic and liquor acts continued to account for most cases under provincial statutes.

STRENGTH OF 7,000

At March 31, the total RCMP strength—regulars, civilians and special workers—was 7,001. The regular personnel numbered 5,111 compared with 2,620 at the end of the 1946-47 year.

The number of horses used by the force continued to decline and at March 31 there were 197 left on strength—down eight from the previous year.

The RCMP, responsible for policing the Yukon and Northwest Territories, continued its policy in the North of providing services ranging from weather data to income tax advice and grave-digging.

Smuggling keeps patrols active

Enterprising auto thieves recently smuggled a stolen United States car into Canada where it was sold, stolen a second time, re-smuggled back across the border and then sold again.

The report did not give the location, but RCMP sources here said it was an Ontario border point, possibly Windsor.

CARS RETURNED

Dealing with infractions of federal statutes, the report said the RCMP had completed satisfactorily operations begun late in 1956-57 against the smuggling and sale of stolen U.S. autos in Canada. Most had been returned to their owners.

In all, the RCMP handled 58,451 smuggling, narcotics and bootlegging cases in the 1957-58 fiscal year, up more than 11,000 over the previous year. It attributed the increase to more border patrols.

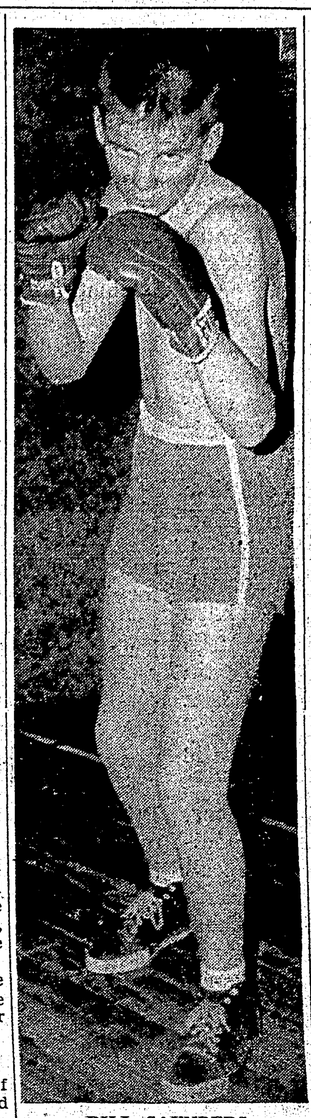
There were 4737 convictions under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, against 354 the previous year.

HEROIN SEIZURES DOWN

Seizures of heroin, principal addiction drug in Canada selling at an average $5 a capsule, were down sharply at 24 ounces from 60 the previous year.

Cigarettes again predominated in commercial smuggling, 9,177 cartons being seized compared with 7,493 the previous year. There were 196 stills seized, highest number since 1951-52, but the catch in gallons dropped by 50 per cent.

As a result of RCMP work, there were 10,691 prosecutions under the Income Tax Act, down from the 11,119 a year earlier but "volume remains high." Convictions totalled 9,122.



BILL SAUNDERS
. . . faces big test

Firehall tenders opened

Five construction companies have submitted tenders to City Council for the building of a new firehall.

The tenders were opened at a special meeting of the council last night; council decided to obtain an architect's opinion on each, and no decision on awarding the contract was made.

Tenders were as follows:

Blakeburn Construction Ltd., Terrace, $117,300.

Sorensen Construction Co. Ltd., Vancouver, $116,961;

Eby and Sons Ltd., Prince Rupert, $129,440.

Bennett and White Construction Co. Ltd., Vancouver, $106,144.

Northwest Construction Ltd., Prince Rupert, $99,511.

It is hoped that construction of the firehall will begin very soon, and help alleviate unemployment in the city.

Mayor P. J. Lester said today that 27 former City employees laid off last November and December have begun work again under the combined federal and municipal winter work program.

They are engaged in the survey and examination of the city sewerage system.

THREE DENY THEFT

Three city men, Albert Bonneau, Richard Brodeau and Roger Cote pleaded not guilty before Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite in city police court this morning to a charge of theft of a radio and were remanded for trial until January 23.

Sect issues "exploited by group," say RCMP

OTTAWA (CP)—The propaganda effect of the proposed Doukhobor migration back to Russia has been "exploited to the full by a small group of leaders" says the annual RCMP report tabled today in the Commons.

"The project, with its many public meetings, delegations and fund-raising campaigns has caused deep dissensions which have divided families and, in some cases, husband and wife," says the report for the year ended last March 31.

The trek back to Russia was proposed by leaders of the Sons of Freedom sect of the Doukhobors and remains indefinite despite numerous meetings with British Columbia and federal government authorities.

The Soviet has made no public invitation to the Sons of Freedom to return although B.C. and Ottawa have promised assistance provided the Doukhobors renounce their Canadian citizenship.

The report also covers numerous acts of terrorism in the B.C. interior, long troubled by bombings and other attacks attributed to the radical Doukhobor sect.

It says that "almost without exception" Sons of Freedom children have been happy and well cared for" in the special government school for them at New Denver, B.C. They were lodged there in an attempt to bypass parential opposition to the children going to public schools. Ten truant children were apprehended.

Mass of legislation confronts parliament

OTTAWA (CP)—Highlights of the speech from the throne read at the opening of Parliament yesterday:

New projects for national development will be placed before Parliament.

The government will propose establishment of a National Energy Board to ensure the best use of energy resources within federal jurisdiction.

Action will be proposed to alleviate "discriminatory" effects of the recently 17-per-cent rail freight rate increase.

The government will ask extension for one year of the increase in the provincial share of personal income tax revenue given last year.

Study of financial relations between the federal and provincial governments will be continued.

Increased federal expenditure on the Trans-Canada Highway will be recommended.

A special Commons committee will be set up to review broadcasting policy and operations.

Legislation will be introduced to institute farm crop insurance in conjunction with any provinces that want it.

Parliament will be asked to review and revise farm credit legislation to make it more effective.

Enactment of a Bill of Rights —introduced at the last session —will be proposed again.

Legislation will be introduced to encourage the flow of private funds into mortgages for housing.

Amendment to anti-combine laws will be proposed.

Changes in the unemployment insurance act will be submitted.

Provisions for strengthening federal legislation against obscene literature will be sought.

The Election Act will be reviewed by a Commons committee with a view to later legislation.

The Fisheries Improvement Loans Act will be extended for another three years.

Improvements in federal assistance to veterans will be proposed.

A contributory plan of medical benefits for civil servants will be proposed.

Legislation will be introduced to implement recent decisions of the International Bank and International Monetary Fund to increase their resources.

Saunders city entry in B.C. boxing meet

This city and the Prince Rupert Elks Boxing association will be represented in Vancouver at the Emerald Gloves Boxing tournament by a 15-year old boy who has been boxing since he was five-years old.

Wearing the Elks colors January 23 and 24 in the annual junior boxing show will be Billy Saunders, 145 pound son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Saunders, 1207 Water Street.

Youngsters from Vancouver Island, from Prince George and from the Lower Mainland are entered in this year's tournament, which is restricted to boys under 16.

World light - heavyweight champion, Archie Moore is expected to present awards on the final night. The top award, the Emerald Boy trophy was won last year by Rickey Deslaurier of Vancouver.

Billy Saunders, who will be sponsored on his trip by the Elks Boxing association will be accompanied on his trip by his dad and will, under Emerald Gloves regulations have a Lower Mainland coach in his corner during the fights.

The Gloves tourney, in which boxers often have to fight twice or three times in the two nights will be young Saunders' first real test. Trained for almost 12 months a year since 1949, Billy has had 16 decision fights losing only one by a split decision.

Only 118 pounds last summer, he has sprung up to the welterweight class and is five-feet 11 inches, with plenty of room to put on more weight.

Bill has been trained throughout the years by his father and by former B.C. Golden Gloves champion Andy Marshall.

The young fighter and his dad will leave by plane for Vancouver January 21. The tournament is being staged in the Vancouver College gymnasium, and is sponsored by Vancouver College with the aid of the Knights of Columbus.

DRIVER FINED $75

Evald Sarap of Prince Rupert was found guilty by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite in city police court this morning of impaired driving and was fined $75, costs or in default of payment sentenced to one month in jail.

The Magistrate said no recommendation for suspension of Sarap's driver's licence would be made.

Recreational Association re-formed

METLAKATLA — The Metlakatla Mutual Recreational Association has been re-formed and after several years of non-operating.

Results of the election of officers Monday are: Edwin H. Ryan, sr., president; Mrs. Alvin Leask, vice-president; Clarence Nelson, treasurer; Roddy Wilson, secretary; Alvin Leask, sports manager (assisted by Steven Ryan); Clarence Nelson, curator (assisted by Ronald Haldane and Peter Ryan, jnr.); Edwin Ryan, jnr., press agent; Edwin Ryan, snr., chaplain.

Committee appointments will be announced later.

Third ship in '59 here for grain

Third grain ship in the first 16 days of 1959 to berth at the Canadian Government elevator arrived at 10:30 this morning after a trip through the Panama canal.

The Grecian Emblem, a Greek vessel under Liberian registry, is here to take approximately 12,500 long tons of No. 1 and No. 2 feed barley.

Last Saturday the British ship Swiftpool sailed for the United Kingdom with 9,025 tons of No. 1 and No. 2 feed barley and on January 6, the Norwegian freighter the MS Sunmoss took 11,020 tons of No. 1 feed barley for delivery in Britain.

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Police called by MHO to gain entry to home

The city's medical health officer had to fetch an RCMP constable to gain entry to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Prince to see their child on December 24, a coroner's jury was told last night.

Dr. W. B. Laing, director of Skeena Health Unit told the jury inquiring into the December 26 death of three-month old Bertha Mae Prince that when he first went to the Prince home at 1100 Tenth Avenue East he was refused admission.

"I went there with William Prokop, head of the Social Welfare branch here and we were refused entry by Mr. Prince," Dr. Laing said.

Dr. Laing was testifying at the resumed inquest which started January 9 under Coroner George Dawes and adjourned until last night.

The health unit director said he then left the Prince home and returned with RCMP Const. W. M. Saunders and Mr. Prokop at which time they were let in.

The doctor said on entering the home he asked several times to see the baby and was refused by Mr. Prince who said he had no right to see her as she was under the care of Dr. E. Rogers a Vancouver specialist.

Dr. Laing said that when he informed Mr. Prince that search warrant would be procured, the child was brought from next door by Mr. Prince's sister-in-law, Mrs. J. T. Prince.

Dr. Laing testified that he examined the child and told Mr. and Mrs. Prince that she was undernourished and needed immediate medical attention.

When asked why they had not seen a local doctor as to the baby's condition, Mr. Prince said it was under a specialist's care, Dr. Laing said.

Mr. Prince made a phone call to Dr. Rogers in Vancouver at which time Dr. Laing also spoke to him, the Doctor said.

Dr. Laing said he asked Dr. Rogers if he was prepared to take the responsibilities for the child and the Vancouver doctor said he was.

Dr. Roger's credentials were checked and were found to be in order, Dr. Laing told the jury.

The health officer testified that Mr. Prince told him they would take the baby to Vancouver as soon as transportation was available.

Const. Saunders said that while the baby was being examined he noticed the child's skin to be very loose on her body.

The RCMP officer said that on December 27 Mr. Prince told him "I have been a fool".

A pathologist's report will be read when the inquest continues at 7:15 tonight at the city hall.

CITY MAN INJURED

A 65-year-old city man, George Kustas, of 930 Third Avenue West who was in collision with a vehicle late Wednesday night today was reported in critical condition in Prince Rupert General Hospital.

The accident occurred on the corner of Second Avenue West and Sixth Street at about 11 p.m. and involved a panel delivery truck driven by Peter Meister of 1228 Park Avenue.

RCMP are investigating.

Surrendered to police

James J. O'Rourke of Prince Rupert had his 12-month sentence suspended by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite in city police court today when he admitted theft of an automobile.

RCMP told the court that O'Rourke rented a U-drive last March and drove it to Vancouver were it was found some two weeks later and returned to Prince Rupert.

Defence counsel A. Bruce Brown told Magistrate Applewhaite that O'Rourke did not know he would be charged with theft but when he found out, he gave himself up about a week ago, at Burnaby.

Magistrate Applewhaite said the accused would be released on his own recognizance with one surety of $500.

Prince Rupert has now gone 367 days without a fatal traffic accident.

J. H. Jefferies elected Rod and Gun president

J. H. Jefferies was elected president of the Rod and Gun Club at the annual general meeting at the Moose Temple Monday.

A. F. Martin became vicepresident; Georgia Shenton secretary and A. J. Dominato, treasurer. The executive elected comprised Tona Armstrong, Norman Christensen, J. W. Intermela and Rodney J. Moore. Starting their second-year terms are Stanley Koshman, Norman Shenton, J. A. Martin, J. F. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Painter and Robert D. Armstrong.

A vote of thanks was passed to retiring president Earl W. Becker.

Magistrate E. T. Appelwhaite will be guest speaker at the club banquet on February 21 in the Navy Drill Hall.

Pete Ferguson said the .22 range was ready to be used, but only for controlled shooting.

Rod Moore said the walk-ups to the archery range have been completed. The range has already been used for practice.

Membership chairman Norm Shenton reported that the strength of the club in 1958 stood at 80.

Norm Christensen is donating a 75 pound salmon for the banquet.

Residents asked to join search

Members of Local 708 and the Marine Superintendent of the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative Association today asked for residents to help in the search for the three hunters missing since last Friday.

The search will start from the main gate of Columbia Cellulose Company Limited 10 a.m. tomorrow and the two organizations stressed that "there cannot be enough persons to assist in this search for the three men."

The International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, along with the Fishermen's Co-Op, urge full co-operation with RCMP who are conducting the search.

Area to be searched is the woods adjacent to Wainwright Basin, down the track towards Bilmore and from the track towards Menzies' cabins about two miles away.

WEATHER—

Cloudy with occasional showers today and Saturday. Little change in temperature. Winds southerly 20 decreasing to light tonight and becoming easterly 25 Saturday forenoon and becoming northwesterly 20 Saturday evening. Low tonight and high Saturday 33 and 40.

TIDES—

Saturday, Jan. 17, 1959
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	07:11	18.0 feet
	19:54	15.1 feet
Low	00:33	8.7 feet
	13:54	6.6 feet