# EUROPE LOOKS TO UNITED STATES ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FOR ALL-IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AID

**Pin Hopes for Recovery on Infusion of Dollars During "Convalescence'**

By STEWART UNDERHILL
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON, (CP) — Disjointed by the war, European economics are floundering badly and few countries look to the New Year with self assurance.

Political strife went hand-in-hand with industrial difficulties during 1947 and many nations outside the Russian zone of influence appeared to pin their hopes on a transfusion of United States dollars—dollars to buy food and machinery and rebuild shattered factories.

"The fevers of war have left the patient exhausted and in need of long convalescence," Norman Robertson, Canadian High Commissioner in London, said in a 1946 address on trade matters.

"It now appears that the convalescence may exceed even the most sober and realistic predictions that were made when the war was over."

His remarks have lost none of their cogency since Britain, putting forth the most concentrated effort of any European nations, is still a long way from bridging the gap between exports and imports.

Her export program, seriously deranged by bad weather and lack of fuel last February, brought in £108,204,000 in October—the second best month since the war—but imports for the same month were £161,248,000, close to an all-time high.

**BRITISH COAL VITAL TO MANY COUNTRIES**

For 1948, Britain faces a regime of intensified savings and increased exports in an effort to regain economic independence, whatever aid is forthcoming from North America.

Success will help Europe toward self-sufficiency. Shipments of British coal would bolster the programs of many countries which now must spend precious dollars on United States fuel. France, for example, is importing nearly 2,000,000 tons of coal a month, mostly from the United States.

Her own mines were headed toward a record output year—running well ahead of 1938—when scores were closed by strikes for higher wages. The flow of supplies to French industry, which also was showing a steady improvement, was disrupted and will not be restored for months.

At the year-end most other European coal producers were still strunggling to equal prewar production. Much depends on the efforts of German miners in the Rhur which once shipped coal all over Western Europe but now is producing only 60 per cent of 1938. Poland is one of the few countries to surpass its prewar output.

In broad outline, France is a test-tube for western Europe's difficulties. Her industry is distressed by shortage of materials and unrest among workers, whose waking hours are preoccupied by the diminishing purchasing power of their currency.

Her agriculture suffered severely in the war. Fields that were not battle-ravaged were neglected and deprived of needed fertilizers. Manpower was scattered in military and forced labor drafts and livestock was destroyed. Farm equipment rusted or stood idle for lack of parts.

**BELGIUM BETTER OFF THAN HER NEIGHBORS**

Belgium provided one bright spot, with her stores full of consumer goods bought with dollars acquired during and after the war from the sale of African colonial products to the United States. But although she seems prosperous in contrast to her neighbors, her people groan about the high cost of living.

Even countries like Switzerland and Sweden, untouched by the war, felt the economic pinch during 1947. Their traditional markets could not provide them with currencies needed to purchase goods abroad. Both countries, after a seeming whirl of prosperity after the war, had to impose currency restrictions. Switzerland's tourist trade also suffered severely when Britain banned foreign tourist travel.

Writing of Denmark's difficulties—which are also Europe's—a Copenhagen paper said:

"Before the war Denmark sent Britain butter and bacon as a matter of course, just as Britain sent Denmark coal and coke. In 1938 we sold to the British market about 12,000 tons of butter and got from Britain nearly 4,000,000 tons of coal and coke. In the first five months of 1947 we saved up 17,000 tons of butter for export to Britain. But we have had no coal and no coke in return . . .

"In order to keep our productive machine working at all we have to fetch coal from across the Atlantic. Our reduced tonnage must be used on month-long voyages carrying coal one way and travelling in ballast the other, instead of earning money in the international market . . .

"Before the war it cost us roughly 22 pounds of butter to buy a ton of British coal. Today we must ship over 50 pounds of butter to Britain to enable us to buy one ton of coal from the United States."

CALM AFTER STORM THAT KILLED 165—This fishing boat, tossed ashore near Matozinhos, was one of the boats in the Portuguese fishing fleet caught by the fury of a recent hurricane off the northern coast of Portugal. Five of the vessels were destroyed and 165 fishermen died in the storm. Every wife in one fishing village was made a widow.

# WOMAN NOW IN CZECH CABINET

By A. I. GOLDBERG

PRAGUE (AP)—The first swish of petticoat politics has been in Czechoslovakia's highest government circles with the elevation of Mrs. Ludmila Jankovcova to the post of minister of industry.

Now the Communist women deputies are reoprted just the teeniest bit jealous and wanting one of their number in a cabinet post to match what their Social Democratic sister attained.

There are 25 women deputies in the Czechoslovak parliament. The Communists have 13, the Czech National Socialists six, the Social Democrats four, and the People's Party and the Slovak Democrats one each.

Mrs. Jankovcova is a 50-year-old widow whose husband was killed in the underground resistance movement during the German occupation. She herself remained in the country at first trying to teach, and then forced into manual labor in an electrical goods factory by the German occupiers.

Despite her rigorous experiences, she and her son, now 14 and still going to school, emerged safely from the war.

An economist, Mrs. Jankovcova became a career woman in the ministry of industry. Meanwhile, she kept up her political work with the Social Democratic party. When the party, at a recent congress, decided to disentangle itself from the Communists, its elected Bohumil Lausman as its chairman and he resigned as minister of industry to give full time to the reconstituted party.

Mrs. Jankovcova was promoted to Lausman's old cabinet post where she has the task of rounding out the government's two-year industrial plan and getting a start on the five-year plan which is to get under way in January, 1949.

## Sally The Bear Cub Longs For Old Pals

**Much-Travelled Mascot Enjoyed Air Force Life**

EDMONTON (CP)— People are confusing. Take it from one who knows—Sally a 40-pound black bear cub.

Sally was found by a corporal in the United States Army Air Force who took her back to the camp at which he was stationed, near Dawson Creek on the Alaska Highway. His buddies adopted the month-old cub as their mascot. The corporal named her "Junior" in memory of a cub he owned while a forest ranger in the States. But later the boys decided that wasn't formal enough—they renamed her Sally.

For some time Sally was happy with camp life. Instead of grubbing for food she was fed chocolate bars, bread, jam and similar delicacies. But one thing Sally didn't know—when you join the air force you see the world. She was packed into a plane and shipped to a zoo in Edmonton.

She had hardly arrived at the airport when her old buddies at Dawson Creek decided they were lonely for her—so she was shipped back.

Then winter started rearing its ugly head and the boys again decided the Edmonton zoo was the place for Sally. She was flown to the Alberta capital and adopted by a group of Canadian airmen. But the R. C. A. F. couldn't decide whether or not she was a good influence so again she was sent packing—to the zoo.

Sally doesn't mind the zoo—but she misses her pals and the things they fed her. She hasn't been forgotten though. The boys at Dawson Creek have informed zoo officials they'll be down soon to greet their pal.

## SWAYING LADDER ROUTE TO SHOPS

LANCASTER, Eng. (CP) — Mrs. Beatrice Parkinson is probably Britain's only woman lighthouse-keeper. Daily she trims and lights the large oil lamps that guide ships off the North Lancashire coast.

To clean her windows she has has to climb onto a tiny platform 50 feet above the boiling sea. "I used to be scared stiff," Mrs. Parkinson said, "but now I've got used to it."

Once a week she takes time out from lighthouse-keeping to go shopping—down the swaying ladder a short boat trip, three miles on a bicycle to the nearest bus stop then an eight-mile journey into town.

"I'm always glad to get back home," said Mrs. Parkinson who earns £2 ($8) a week plus free living accomodation.

**DUSTBIN THIEVES**

GILLINGHAM, Kent, Eng., (CP) —Police are on the watch for thieves who are taking kitchen waste from dustbins and selling it.

**PAIN KKILLER**

Oil seeping from the ground was used by Indians as salve and medicine.

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