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New Opportunities Loom

IT IS an ungracious thing to say about an old acquaintance, but generally speaking there will be few regrets over the departure of 1952.

On an international scale the passing year did not distinguish itself as a friendly one. Trouble in Iran reached another crisis. Unrest in South Africa boiled ominously. Hope for settlement of the Korean war was dampened by failure of the surrender talks and bloody uprisings in the prisoner-of-war camps. Terror of the Mau Mau reigned in Kenya. Bitterness continued to brood in Berlin and the Indo-Chinese war flared ahead. There were other anxieties, but suffice it to say that 1952 left something to be desired as a harbinger of good-will.

Although the year was reasonably generous towards Canada, it could not refrain from the malicious act of spreading hoof-and-mouth disease on the prairies. Later it repented somewhat by producing a record grain crop, and the country as a whole came through in the promising manner expected of it.

In British Columbia, however, 1952 took some truly dirty swipes by prostrating our fishing and lumber industries and simultaneously involving us in a political tangle. Considering that on the Asiatic shores it was stirring up other difficulties, it would seem that the fading year found our Pacific air disagreeable. But there is no reason for those who live out here to feel discouraged because it appears already that 1953 is going to know better.

As the old year totters along its cantankerous way, a hint is developing that a serious, top-level effort will be made to bring peace to Korea. Trans-Pacific trade is showing signs of coming to life, and everywhere along the broad stretch of the north-west coast there is the germination of industry.

For the 1,200 unemployed in Prince Rupert, any overtones of optimism will have a hollow ring. Still the force of events cannot be denied. New opportunities for work will develop as surely and deliberately as the old ones were destroyed. There have been dark days and there will be others. But those who live close to mountains know how the sun can be well in the sky before they ever see it.

It may be that the sunlight of 1953 is nearer than we think.

Scripture Passage for Today

"A thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday."
— Psalm 90:4.

Air-Sea Rescue Unit Always Ready to Help

Members of the Air-Sea Rescue unit of the Royal Canadian Air Force never know at what time of the day or night a hurried telephone call will send them flying over stormy seas or rugged mountains on another errand of mercy.

The unit has gone to the assistance of polio victims all over B.C., injured loggers and construction workers, sick children, shipwrecked fishermen and survivors of various disasters.

Air-Sea Rescue aircraft flew more than 15,000 miles in 1952 on mercy flights and the fact some of the flights were made under very difficult conditions reflects great credit on the skill of pilots and aircrew involved.

In the operations room at their Sea Island base, the crew of the day are ever ready, along with the medical evacuation team, to leave on a mercy flight wherever it may be at a moment's notice.

Authorization of the flight depends on circumstances of the case and availability of aircraft. Most requests are met. There is no cost to the individual for the services.

Last fall, a child at Terrace lay desperately ill with polio. In very bad weather an aircraft flew to Terrace with a respirator, then flew the child back to Vancouver.

As one RCAF officer who made the flight explained: "This trip was made under very adverse conditions. We took off (from Vancouver) at 7 p.m., ran into fog, and had to turn back and land at Port Hardy after three hours' flight."

"Next morning, after getting special clearance from the Department of Transport, we took off in the fog and flew over the mountains to Smithers."

"We did a 'let-down' through clouds under conditions far be-

low safety limits, then flew down the Bulkley Valley under the fog for 90 miles at a height of 400 feet above ground with a 60-mile-an-hour head wind.

"Such a trip never would have been attempted under normal circumstances."

In spite of these difficulties the aircraft reached Terrace, the child was placed in the respirator, and the return flight made to Vancouver without mishap.

PATIENT IN LUNG
On another trip, a totally paralyzed polio patient in an iron lung was flown from Vernon to Vancouver in a Dakota aircraft which had landed on a small, unmarked grass airstrip to take the patient aboard.

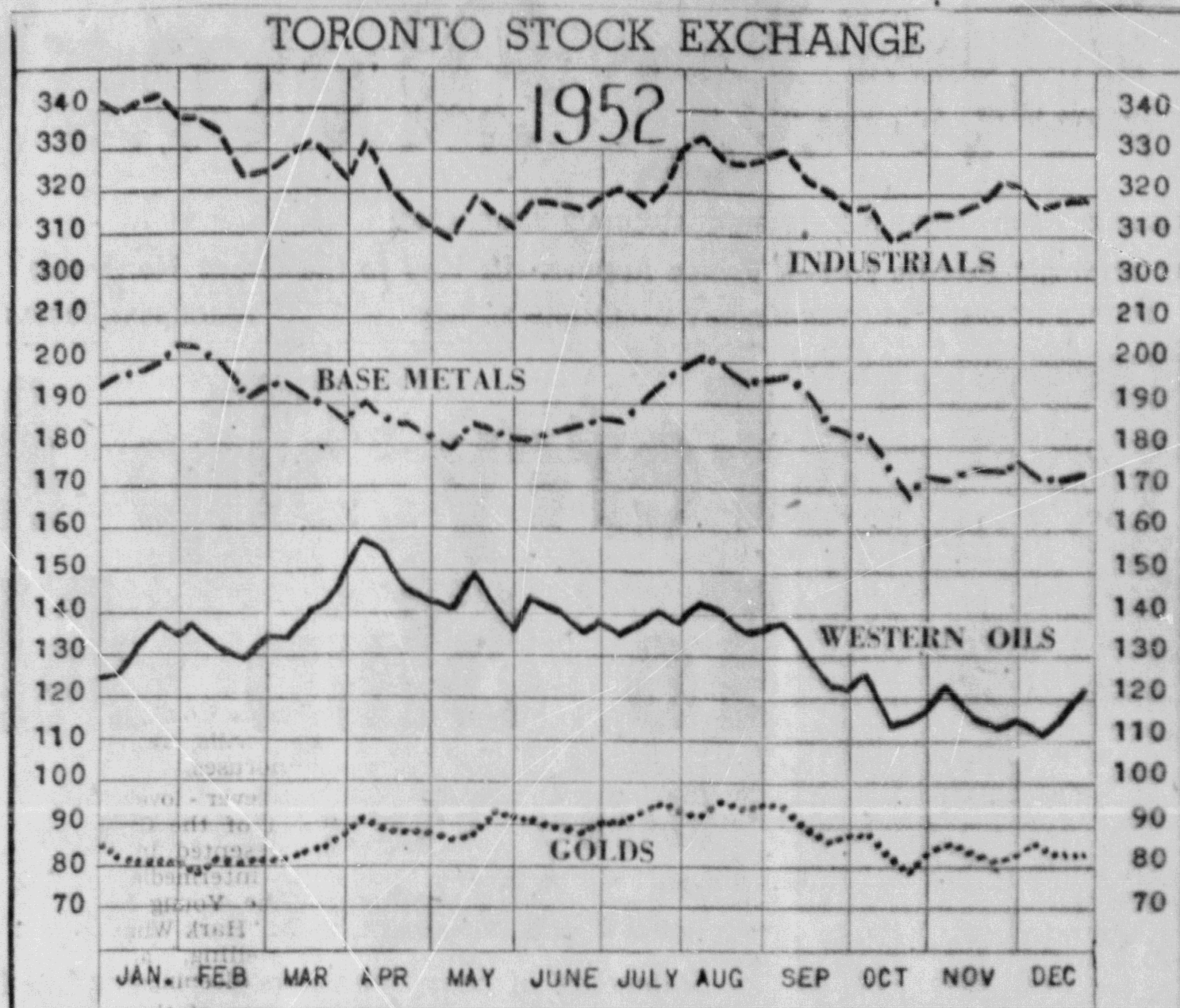
An RCAF medical officer and nursing sister accompanied the patient during the flight.

During the polio season the Air-Sea Rescue unit made 18 return flights to such widely scattered centres as Quesnel, Vernon, Enderby, Vanderhoof, Cranbrook, Penticton, Nanaimo, Burns Lake, Comox, Ocean Falls, Bralorne and Fort St. John, carrying respirators, iron lungs, supplies and medical personnel to care for victims who had to be evacuated to Vancouver.

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR OAKALLA HUTS

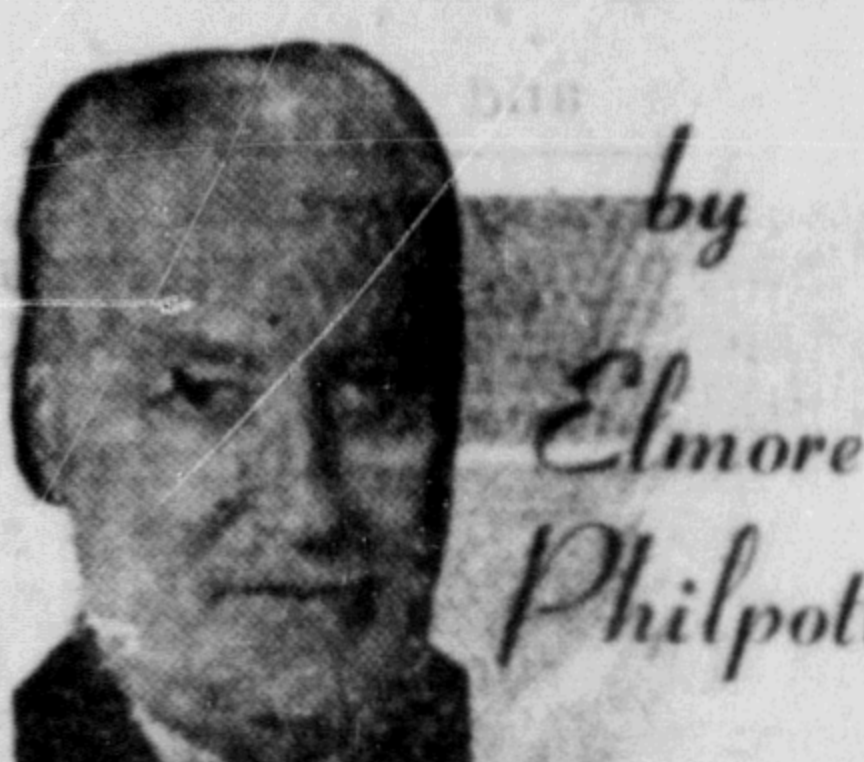
VICTORIA (C) — The provincial government has awarded a \$241,110 contract for construction of six cottage-type huts at Oakalla prison farm to accommodate 480 prisoners, Attorney General Robert Bonner said today.

Plans for erection of the new accommodation were first announced after the September riot at the prison—attributed largely to overcrowding.



ALTHOUGH 1952 WAS CALLED the most prosperous in history, contradictory trends marked activity on the Toronto Stock Exchange. None of the exchange's indices of market activity showed an advance over Dec. 31, 1951. Industrials lost ground on the index despite the fact Canadian companies paid more in dividends than ever before. Value of listings on the Toronto exchange rose from about \$12,000,000,000 in 1951 to about \$19,000,000,000 in 1952.

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

Quiz for 1953

AS I HAVE already reported, no individual or group had a perfect score in my annual quiz covering 1952.

So once again I offer "The Beard of the Prophet" to each and every reader who correctly answers the following questions for 1953:

Will there be a real cease-fire in Korea in 1953?

Will there be a world war, involving U.S. versus Russia, in 1953?

Will the western powers be joined in the defense alliance by actual organized German military units in 1953?

Will Russia still be a UN member in good standing by the end of 1953?

Name the order in which the four political parties will finish, in seats won, if there is another B.C. election in 1953.

Present standing is Social Credit, CCF, Liberals and Conservatives.

Who will be Prime Minister of Canada at the end of 1953—Mr. St. Laurent or Mr. Bennett?

The present standing of the parties in the Canadian House of Commons is Liberals, Conservatives, CCF and Social Credit. Name the order in which they will finish in the next federal election, expected next May or next October. This question will not count on the Beard of the Prophet contest, but if you want a really tough one, try it, just for fun.

Now, Next Year

Liberals - 18

Conservatives - 49

CCF - 13

Social Credit - 10

Others - 6

IF YOU WANT to try for the Beard of the Prophet send your answers to me, at 1750 West Sixty-Second Avenue, Vancouver. However, if you prefer to keep them to read at your group or club or high school class next year, that is just as much fun, too.

I NOTICE that both in Britain and Canada the Gallup polls show that the great majority of our people think that there is much less danger of world war than there was a few years ago. Once again I think the majority is wrong. I figure that the war danger is much worse now. If we do not get real cease fire in Korea I think things will go from bad to worse.

However, I do not expect outright world war in 1953. I expect it to be a year of great crisis and upset, but not world war. I figure 1954 will be the really bad one—for by then the great power blocs will have such stacks of piled-up arms and bombs that the military minded Big Brass will think, "Will we shoot these off now or see them go obsolete?"

GOLFERS MISS GAME ONLY FOUR OUT OF 366 DAYS

VICTORIA (C) — Golf was played in Victoria on 361 of the 366 days this year.

Three days of snow in January and one in February kept the golfers from the links at Uplands, Colwood, and the Victoria golf club in suburban Oak Bay.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Fifty thousand cigarettes missing from a local business house. Good enough to be cork tipped, that many.

Job-hunter ran the following advertisement in an Edmonton paper: "Back East they say 'go West young man.' Well, I'm here. Now what?"

Speaking politically, what's coming next in Social Credit affairs? Will there be a brand new Party name? Something like this is suggested in Ottawa gossip. Tories appear to be in a hurry over something or other. Why?

Women are not very strong physically but they can put the cap on a fruit jar so it takes a husband twenty minutes to get it off—Lynn Hutchinson.

NO SIGN

Buffalo meat from Wainwright has gone on sale in Vancouver. It costs ten cents more than beef. We doubt if there is the smallest speck of 1952 pemmican left.

Roast turkey, of course, is delicious. It may be equally acceptable the day after. But the day will come when that fish display will mean a second glance!

"There are veterans who can still remember 'Ol' Bill' and Bairnsfather's laughs of the days of 1914-18. One has reappeared. It shows a gaping shell hole in the wall of a house, a young recruit inquiring what caused the hole, and Ol' Bill's answer: "Mice." A German footnote adds that it must be clearly understood that not mice, but a high explosive shell was the real cause.

A girl, whereabouts, has contracted malaria from anopheles mosquito. And that's anopheles way to contract it.—Toronto Star.

Nowadays, it usually does a farmer a power of good to go to the city and look over the folks who were too smart to stay down on the farm.

In the card from the Athabaskan is a picture which should stop and make us think. The picture is of the destroyer ploughing through gale-lashed winter seas off Inchon, Korea. To all such who weren't home, may have been in battle, we at home offer our prayers and sincerest wishes for a peaceful world to enjoy the next Christmases.

New Bridge Planned Over Narrows

VANCOUVER (C) — The First Narrows Bridge Co. Ltd. plans a new \$12,000,000 bridge across Burrard Inlet at the entrance to Vancouver harbor.

The company built the \$6,000,000 Lions Gate bridge which was opened in 1938 to serve the suburbs of West and North Vancouver.

An offer has been made to purchase 11 acres of land in West Vancouver for a bridge approach. The land is owned by the Squamish Indian tribe.

Rapid growth of the suburbs has taxed the capacity of the Lions Gate bridge.

The new bridge would parallel the present three-lane span and would take several years to build.

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RCAF Training Ground Crew In Infantry

OTTAWA (C) — The RCAF is turning its ground crews and clerks into a part-time infantry corps trained to defend air force bases from enemy attack.

The air force magazine, Roundel, said today "intensive training of RCAF personnel for every aspect of ground defence is now well advanced."

It disclosed that four RAF officers have been directing formation of a ground defence branch whose job it is to teach ground crews and clerks—but not airwomen—how to fight the way the infantry fights.

A brief editor's note introducing an article by Wing Cmdr. A. M. Blake, senior officer among the four Britons, says there is "at present" no intention of forming an RCAF regiment as such.

However, in the article Wing Cmdr. Blake says there may soon appear in the RCAF either a counterpart of the RAF regiment or a security organization responsible for light anti-aircraft defence and the security and ground defence of RCAF units in Europe.

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OUR BEST WISHES FOR 1953

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

What officials in Canada's Department of External Affairs find most interesting about the overtures of Marshal Stalin to President-elect Eisenhower is the climate of international opinion in which they are made.

During the past weeks and months Canada has had delegations attending various conferences in Europe, the meetings of the NATO Council, of UNESCO, and of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers. All of them have reported privately on their return here that a new twilight has settled over the Western diplomatic scene. Not only continental nations but the United Kingdom as well have become concerned primarily over the drain upon their economies of the armaments race in the cold war. They have become preys to the fear that, if World War III really is in the making, they will lose it before a shot is fired through the collapse of their economies as a result of the armaments burden.

COST OF COLD WAR

This feeling found expression particularly at the meeting of the NATO Council when the United Kingdom led the Western European nations in rejecting the coming year's budget for infrastructure expenditures. As drafted by NATO's military staff, the budget called for expenditures of \$150,000,000, — approximately the same figure as for 1952. Under pressure the generals agreed that if the program were stretched out over a somewhat longer period of time, the figure could be cut to about \$100,000,000. But they warned that they considered any gamble with time dangerous. And they held firmly to \$100,000,000 as the minimum possible expenditure in the light of the needs of the military situation.

Only Officer Off Titanic Passes Away

TWICKENHAM, Eng. (Reuters) — Cmdr. Charles Herbert Lightoller has died here at the age of 78, still haunted by the memory of one of the greatest tragedies of the sea.

For Cmdr. Lightoller was the only officer to survive the sinking of the Titanic.

The "unsinkable" Titanic hit an iceberg off Newfoundland just before midnight April 14, 1912, and went down with a loss of over 1,500 lives, including Charles M. Hays, one of the founders of Prince Rupert.

Lightoller was second officer of the liner at the time of the disaster.

LIGHT OUT

Sunny Island Light, Fisher Channel, Number 2356.2, has been reported not burning and will be relighted at the first opportunity.

HAPPY NEWYEAR

TO
JOHN DUMAS
ART TURCOTTE
VICTOR PRYSTAY
DOUG LETOURNEAU
DICK BURY
BOB DUMAS
BILLY SMITH
GLEN FLEMING
ROY PRYSTAY
BILLY SAUNDERS
BOBBY GOOD
BOBBY SMITH
BILLY WILSON
GERRY DOMINATO
of the
Boys' Boxing Club
from
M. J. SAUNDERS

U.K. May Build Atomic Station

LONDON (Reuters) — Atomic experts believe Britain first atomic power station will be built in 1953.

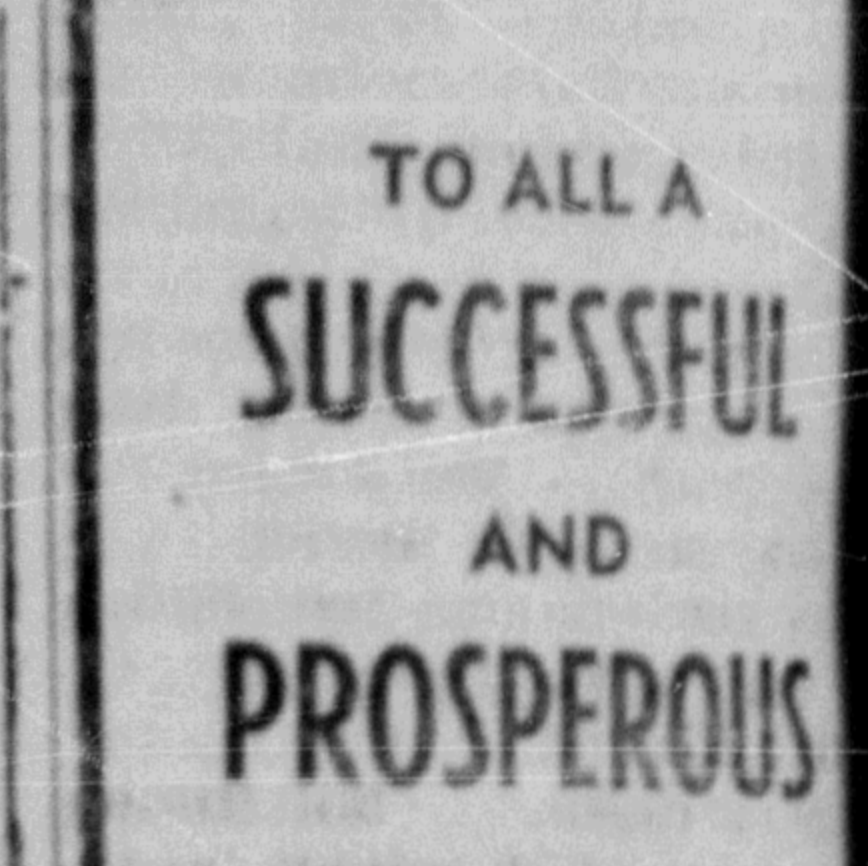
Metallurgists have overcome one of the major problems building such a station—suitable materials to conduct heat energy developed at atomic pile to the power generators.

DISSATISFACTION WITH UNO

At the same time French opinion was losing its early enthusiasm for UNO, as it attributed to that body's encouragement of nationalistic movements the troubles the Republic is having in Morocco, Tunisia, and Indo-China.

It is in this twilight situation of the understandings between the Western and the democratic powers that the overtures from Marshal Stalin to President-elect Eisenhower arrive. That fact doesn't necessarily stamp them as mischievous in their intent; it may be only coincidental. But it also may possibly be significant. And Ottawa's foreign affairs experts consider that this possibility of mischievous intent has to be weighed carefully against the other possibility of a sincere peace purpose. Which of these motives is operative?

"No, no, Kilroy, this is your little cousin, Eunice, over here."



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