

RUSSIAN WAR PREPARATIONS SEEN



NEW HOPE FOR LEPEERS—New wonder drug Diasone has brought fresh hope to lonely sufferers at leper colony on Bentinck Island, which lies off Vancouver Island in sight of Victoria. The drug completely arrests pain and disease and many are able to return home. Four victims of Hansen's disease now at the colony include two new cases recently discovered in Vancouver, one a 14-year-old Chinese boy. A second leper colony is at Tracadie, N.B. (CP PHOTO)

Leper Boy's Lonely Life

BENTINCK ISLAND, B.C. — So near and yet so far from the bright lights of Victoria, the boy we call Jimmy leads a lonely life for a fun-loving youngster of 14.

He is separated from his family, has no playmates. The reason: Jimmy is a victim of leprosy, one of two new cases of what the 15 called Hansen's disease discovered in Vancouver in recent months.

Unlike the lepers of the past, even up to a few years ago, Jimmy has hope. Thanks to new drugs he feels no physical pain. And some day it is likely he will be able to leave the lonely world of Bentinck Island and return to normal life.

A report on Jimmy and three other lepers on this clover leaf-shaped island, only 20 miles from the capital of British Columbia, was given recently by the man in charge of their welfare. It was an optimistic report.

Dr. R. B. Jenkins told, for instance, of the progress made by Wong, a jolly, pot-bellied man.

One more negative test and he may be permitted to return to his home and family. He has had a negative test each month for the last 11 months.

The only visible trace of disease in Jimmy is a slight discoloration of the left hand of the Chinese-Canadian youngster.

The other two patients have not been as fortunate. The disease has gone too far before an effective treatment was discovered.

Sing has been on Bentinck for almost 15 years. The disease has blinded him. Ling is thin and wasted, the fingers of one hand stiff and gnarled.

Dr. Jenkins said new drugs like Diasone have made a "dramatic change" in the picture in recent years.

He said the drugs arrest the disease so completely that some sufferers are able to return to their homes. Others, he said, could remain in their homes while undergoing treatment but for the public's horror and misunderstanding of the disease.

Leprosy is one of the most difficult diseases to contract, he said. It was much easier to become infected with tuberculosis, for instance.

Canada has one other leper hospital, at Tracadie, N.B. It usually has around 11 patients.

While science works, everything possible is done to ease the lonely life of the people of Bentinck. Jimmy gets his schooling by correspondence. The island's cream and green-trimmed cottages could pass for summer cottages.

The patients are cared for by a resident nurse and her husband. Once a week Dr. Jenkins comes to the island. Along with his professional duties, he brings them their only contact with the outside world.

Conservatives Give up Fight—Anti Price-Fix Bill Finally Approved

OTTAWA (CP)—The House of Commons Friday night adopted the government's contentious anti-price-fixing bill after defeating the one last attempt by Progressive Conservatives to have the legislation shelved.

Booting of Land Deal

A problem which has been booting around to three levels of government will rest at the doorstep of the Civic Centre Association. The provincial government has asked the city to pay back five lots—half of the property on which the Civic Centre building is situated—but city council Thursday turned the contentious matter back to the association.

Council advised the deputy land commissioner to communicate directly with the association as it saw no reason why the city should be held responsible.

It all began this way: When the former YMCA War Services building was turned over to the War Assets Department of the federal government, the latter expropriated the lands—10 lots, half of which belonged to the city and to the provincial government.

When the Civic Centre Association purchased the building from the federal government, an agreement was made that would free the senior government from all responsibility if the province decided it would want back the property.

Recently the department of lands has requested reimbursement for the lands and the latest move has been to suggest that the city offer similar properties in return.

Meanwhile, the association executive are negotiating for a grant of the property.

Expects Big Labor Demand

OTTAWA — Canada will have strong demand for labor in 1952 though there may be "spotty" unemployment through the year, Labor Minister Gregg predicted yesterday.

In his annual New Year statement, the minister said it is likely the main characteristics of the 1951 labor picture will carry into next year as defence industries speed up.

Winter's breath was again felt last night as temperatures at Digby Island slid down to 13 above. Temperatures of 12 to 14 were recorded on various household thermometers throughout the city.

Colder temperatures are general in the city, said the Digby Island weatherman, mainly because of higher altitude and more exposure.

Snow on the ground is measured at 12 inches to date at sea level.

Japanese Ship Loading

Second Grain Vessel at Elevator—Sailing Monday

Grain loading began this morning on the second of several Japanese ships scheduled to call here this winter. Arriving here yesterday direct from Nagoya, Japan, sailing the northern route, the sleek new freighter Yamateru Maru makes this her second voyage since launching.

Her maiden trip was made to Vancouver, November 6, where she waited 17 days for her cargo of grain, says Capt. T. Iwatsuka.

The Yamateru Maru, of 7,152 gross tons, was launched in October, in a shipyard 150 miles west of Kobe, Japan. It is one of a series of "AV" class freighters now under construction, says Capt. Iwatsuka.

And unlike the former Japanese vessel loading grain here, she will take on oil at Prince Rupert and proceed directly to Japan from here upon completion of loading. She will move from the elevator to an oil dock tomorrow and sail Monday. Her speed is seventeen and a half knots, powered by twin diesel engines.

Most modern in design with a flaring bow, the new freighter is equipped with the latest in radar, automatic steering and gyro compass navigational aids.

Crew's quarters as well as those of the officers are modern and comfortable. A crew of 56 includes several boy seamen and young officers in training.

The captain himself has visited the B.C. coast many times in his 35 years of shipping, 20 years as skipper, but this is his first trip to Prince Rupert. He is a very friendly man and speaks good English, which he has studied himself.

His ship belongs to the Yamashita line. The name, Yamateru, means "the sun shines through the mountains." Maru means "ship."

The 35-year-old skipper who had two ships sink under him during the Second World War and narrowly escaped death when a piece of shell entered his skull, is married and has a family of three children at home. Two are daughters, one a widow whose husband was killed during the war. His son is taking a course in economics in the Tokyo University and hopes to extend his education in an American or Canadian university.

In Japan, living conditions are returning to normal. Food, which was scarce at first after the war, is more available now, says Capt. Iwatsuka, but housing is at a premium. Cotton mills and shipbuilding are in full swing, he says, and constitute the major portion of industry in the country.

What about silk?

"Not much silk is manufactured today. American and Canadian women wear your own manufactured nylon which is much cheaper than silk," he laughed.

Over Million Casualties

Chinese and Korean Communists Suffer Heavily

SEOUL (CP)—Chinese and North Korean Communist armies have suffered 1,515,688 casualties in the Korean war, a United States Eighth Army briefing officer reported today. The officer said that the United Nations troops inflicted 216,721 battle casualties on the Reds since truce talks started at Kaesong last July 20.

Awarded Air Force Cross

OTTAWA — Wing Commander J. F. Mitchell of Toronto, Royal Canadian Air Force pilot, who undertook the longest, most gruelling and most daring of flights in the Arctic, has been awarded the Air Force Cross for bravery, fortitude and devotion to duty.

The Air Force, in announcing the award Friday, told of how the 35-year-old Second World War pilot, fighting northern gales, extreme fatigue and peril in crossing uncharted Arctic areas, succeeded in bringing out a weather station official who was dangerously ill from blood poisoning.

The heroic 5,844-mile trip, longest in the history of Royal Canadian Air Force mercy flights, was made in September 1950 from Edmonton to Eureka Sound, 800 miles north of the Arctic Circle and about 500 nautical miles from the North Pole.

Westview Hotel Swept by Fire

WESTVIEW — Thirty occupants escaped without serious injury Friday when a \$35,000 fire damaged the Marine Hotel here.

Guests were awakened by Mrs. Molly Thomas, cook in the 14-room hotel's cafe, after the fire had broken out below the kitchen.

Cause of the fire was not immediately determined.

Firemen fought the blaze for 2½ hours before bringing it under control.

LEAD HOBBY

It has been estimated that stamp collectors outnumber the followers of any other hobby in the world.

Soviet Stockpiling at Expense of Satellites

Food Scarce in Middle Europe—Romania Short of Oil

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CP)—Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, Poland's exiled premier, says that Russia is speeding war preparations at the expense of her mid-Europe satellites.

He told a press conference yesterday that, during the last six months, he had learned from the Iron Curtain underground that there is an unexplained food shortage in middle Europe whereas all these nations except Czechoslovakia normally produce food surpluses.

Gasoline is scarce in Romania, an oil producer.

"Unnecessary" people, that is, those cool to communism, are being moved out of larger cities.

Mikolajczyk said he suspects that gasoline, meat and grain are being stored for use by the Red Army.

Fierce Gale Hits Europe

Sinking Ships Reported From Spain to Denmark

LONDON — Howling hurricane winds washed mountainous seas over sinking ships along Europe's Atlantic coast today and set off a series of frantic distress calls.

At least seven threatened vessels, including two American freighters, radioed SOS signals. One ship was driven aground. Others were taking water rapidly and in serious danger.

The 6,711-ton United States freighter Flying Enterprise, carrying a crew of forty and ten passengers out of Hamburg, said she was listing 45 degrees and "still taking water." She was wallowing off the southwest tip of England. Help was standing by the Flying Enterprise and was at hand on the way to other threatened ships.

Winds as high as 89 miles an hour whipped up the worst eastern Atlantic storm in many years.

Ports and airports are closed in many places.

Coastal towns from Spain to Denmark have been battered.

Hundreds of small boats sank at anchor on the French and English coasts.

Tidal floods hit river mouths all along the shore.

Students Criticize College Training

TORONTO (CP)—University of Toronto students gave their opinion of today's universities in a series of articles in a special year-end issue of The Varsity, student newspaper.

They were not impressed.

Modern students are more concerned with earning than learning and are too concerned with studies to bother about education, a number of senior students concluded. Ralph Wintrop said this attitude was defeating the meaning and purpose of a university.

Rev. R. S. K. Seeley, provost of Trinity College, said that a university has three functions: to raise the general level of education; to train experts in a wide professional field; to provide community leadership. No one knows if the university can perform all three duties, he said.

A number of students criticized the system of examinations and competition with fellow students. The only competition should be the competition of ideas, said Horace Krever.

Larry Moore Reaches Tokyo

Another Prince Rupert soldier has landed in Japan enroute to the Korean battlefield.

Cpl. Larry Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Moore reached Tokyo today aboard the transport General Gordon.

The locally born boy is serving with the 66th Field Army of the United States Army.

New Offer For Truce

Compromise Proposed by United Nations To Bring Peace in Korea

PANMUNJON (CP)—United Nations command today offered a new compromise proposal for supervision of a Korean truce.

Armistice negotiators said they would abandon their demand for aerial inspection over North Korea if the Reds accept the proposal in its entirety.

Full details of the new proposal are not immediately available but the Allies agreed for the first time to negotiate the question of troop rotation.

The plan provides that "such rotations of military personnel as within limits agreed upon by both sides shall be reported to the military armistice commission."

It also proposes that "both sides undertake not to introduce into Korea any reinforcing military personnel" after an armistice is signed.

Record Time On Atlantic

LONDON — A gale, with winds blowing a hundred miles an hour, speed, blew a trans-world airliner Constellation across the Atlantic ocean in near record time.

The airliner completed the crossing to Shannon, Ireland, from St. John's, Nfld., in five hours, eight minutes, which is five minutes longer than the record set in 1948.

No Man's Land Set in Suez

CAIRO (CP)—British and Egyptian commanders have agreed on a six-mile-wide no-man's land between their respective troops along the Cairo-Suez road, it was announced today.

General Saad El Din Sabour, Egyptian army liaison officer, said the arrangement was made to prevent possible clashes between the two forces.

Retaliation on Hungary

WASHINGTON, D.C. — United States has set midnight Monday as the deadline for Hungary to close its consulates in Cleveland and New York City.

Thus is taken one of two major steps in retaliation for Hungarian treatment of four United States airmen who were forced down in Hungary.

The other is a ban on American travel in Hungary.

The steps reduce the contact between United States and Soviet satellites to a bare minimum although a complete diplomatic break has been ordered out.

The four United States airmen, who had been held by Hungary for forty days, crossed the Austrian frontier at Nickelsdorf back to freedom at 5:01 Austrian time, last night.

Walter J. Doherty, United States ambassador at Vienna, went to the Austrian frontier to greet the men.

The United States government had agreed to pay \$120,000 in fines levied against the men on charges of violating the Hungarian border provided they were promptly released.

The fliers are: Captain John J. Swift, pilot; Captain David H. Henderson, co-pilot; Technical Sergeant Jesse A. Duff, mechanic; Sergeant James A. Dlam, radio man.

The four fliers were forced down by Soviet fighters November 19 on Hungarian territory.

The United States protested that the unarmed cargo plane was on a routine mission to carry supplies from Germany to the United States embassy at Belgrade but the Hungarians said it was a spy mission and fined the four \$30,000 each on charges of violating the border.

The United States offered in a note Christmas Day to pay the fines and the Hungarian government accepted the offer.

WEATHER

Synopsis

Cold polar air covers the central and northern portions of British Columbia today and will move southward to cover the remainder of the province by tomorrow.

Snow will occur over the southern interior today and tomorrow with snow flurries along the south coast. The north coast and northern interior will be clear and cold through Sunday.

Gale Warning

North Coast Region — Gale warning continued. Cloudy with snow flurries in southern section, clear remainder of region today. Clear and cold over region tonight and tomorrow. Wind northerly 25, occasionally reaching 40 in mainland inlets. Lows tonight and highs tomorrow—Port Hardy, 25 and 33; Sandspit, 25 and 35; Prince Rupert, 20 and 30.

Prince George, Bulkley Valley, Northern B.C. — Clear and cold today and tomorrow. Wind north 30, becoming north 15 this afternoon, light tonight and tomorrow. Lows tonight and highs tomorrow—Prince George, 15 below and 5 above; Smithers, 15 below and 5 above; Telegraph Creek, 25 below and 10 below.

Dr. Charbonneau Joins Drs. Large

Dr. L. P. Charbonneau, a 1946 graduate of Laval University in Quebec, who has been associated with the Department of Indian Affairs in Prince Rupert for the past three years, will be joining the practice of the Large Clinic (Dr. R. G. and A. W. Large), on January 1.

Dr. Charbonneau, previous to coming to Prince Rupert, spent two years in the Ottawa General Hospital and six months in St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.