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Hong Kong Situation . . .

The crown colony of Hong Kong includes the small island of that name together with a small slice of the mainland across the harbor near the mouth of the Canton River. Kowloon is the name of the mainland section of the colony and this includes the navy yard and docks. The governor lives at the top of the hill in the centre of the island and most of the white people live on the hillside below the governor's residence.

Japan has taken Kowloon and has called upon the island to surrender and avoid further bloodshed. This has so far been refused.

The Chinese army, which is attacking Canton, 90 miles up the Canton River, is gradually moving southward and is reported to be attacking the Japanese on the opposite side of Hong Kong.

Kowloon is flat open country and rather difficult to defend. The island is a mountain except along the shore.

Much Too Trusting . . .

Both the British and American people seem to have been much too trusting prior to the entry of Japan into the war. They believed the Japanese just as Mr. Chamberlain previously believed the Germans. Evidently they took too many chances. When it comes to ending the war there must be less trusting in the word of the enemy. We must take no chances on people who have shown that they have no respect for the truth.

C.C.F. Slump . . .

The C.C.F. group took a bad slump last week when the Vancouver civic vote was taken with the result that the Socialists found themselves out in the cold for the year. Politicians of all kinds were discarded by the electorate in favor of the non-partisan candidates. The tendency is non-political these days of crisis.

Seen From New York . . .

What could Japan do if given a free hand, inquires the New York Post? Japan could overrun the north coast of Asia to Alaska, an alarming prospect which caused President Theodore Roosevelt nearly 35 years ago to end the Russo-Japanese war.

Japan could throttle our tin and rubber from Malaya and the Dutch Indies. Those two countries at present rank after Canada as respectively second and third largest sources of imports, from the Dutch Indies alone United States gets 40 percent of its rubber, 25 percent of its tin. These answers are simply two among many. Japan, in a word, is the Oriental point of Hitler's pincers.

Japan over 10 years has built up an attack. Now at this critical hour the timing has misfired and Japan must go through with its attack at suicidal disadvantage.

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CANADA IS GROWING IN DIPLOMACY

New Ministries in South America and Changes in Service in Other Countries.

By FRANK FLAHERTY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, Dec. 16: © — Death, war and increasing activity brought important changes in Canada's small but growing external affairs department and diplomatic service during 1941. The department which handles all business between Canadian and other governments expanded its activities more than in any other recent year and began to take on some of the characteristics of the foreign affairs departments of world powers with their specialized branches.

Canadian representation abroad showed a marked tendency to shift from east to west. While contracts with European countries diminished due to war, partly for the same reason contacts with American and Trans-Pacific states became more intimate, except in the case of Japan.

Loss of Skeleton

The death of Dr. O. D. Skelton, under-secretary of state for external affairs removed the man who had guided the department through the years in which Canada developed its system of diplomatic representation in foreign and Empire capitals and gathered into the department a staff of brilliant graduates of Canadian universities.

The government selected Norman Robertson as Dr. Skelton's successor and under Mr. Robertson a degree of division of responsibility within the staff was worked out. While the department was not divided into European, Asiatic and other divisions as are similar departments at Washington and London certain members of the staff were assigned to look after certain areas.

Thus Hugh Keenleyside became responsible for Far Eastern and American affairs and L. B. Pearson, recalled during the year from the high commissioner's office in London specialized on empire and European affairs. John Read, legal adviser of the department, handles all legal matters including the negotiation and drafting of treaties.

To South America

Ministers were accredited to three South American countries during the year while these countries also sent ministers to Canada. Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, former chief justice of Saskatchewan, now represents Canada in the Argentine and Chile while Jean Desy, former minister to Belgium and the Netherlands, is accredited to Brazil.

The latest development in the foreign field was an agreement to exchange ministers with China. The Chinese government has appointed a man to Canada but no Canadian appointment had been made up to the opening of war with Japan.

An addition was made to the string of high commissionerships in countries of the Empire when Charles Burchell was recalled from Australia and appointed first Canadian high commissioner in Newfoundland. Increased inter-governmental business with Newfoundland due to the presence of Canadian troops in the Island colony was given as the reason for the appointment.

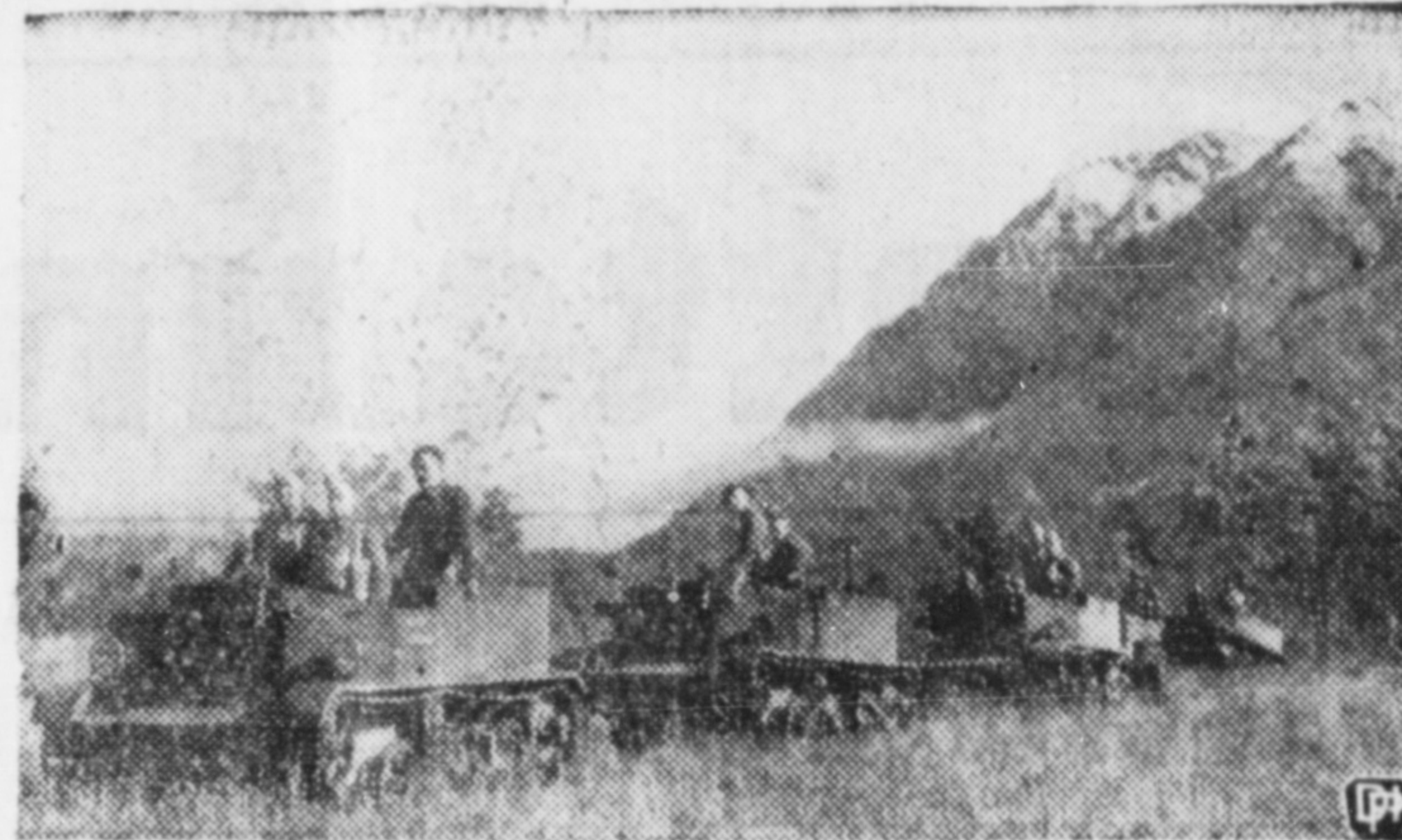
Maj.-Gen. Victor Odium of Vancouver was sent to Australia as high commissioner and went to his post directly from the command of the 2nd division in England.

Following the death of Loring G. Christie, Canadian minister to the United States, the government selected Leighton McCarthy, prominent Toronto barrister, for the Washington post and the staff of the Washington legation was enlarged during the year.

Death also served to remove the first Canadian high commissioner at Dublin, Hon. John Kelly. J. D. Kearney of Montreal, was appointed to succeed him as Canadian representative in Ireland.

A change in the British high commissionership in Ottawa brought to Canada a member of the British cabinet, Rt. Hon. Malcolm Macdonald. He succeeded Sir Gerald Campbell who was appointed British Minister at Washington under Viscount Halifax, also a cabinet minister, who was appointed ambassador.

Convoy Through Rockies



In the early light of morning, Universal carriers of a Canadian mechanized unit trundle into the mountains near Calgary. They're off for several days.



All morning they waddle on, through gorges and over inclines.



After the noon hour halt there are dishes to be done and utensils to be stowed away in neat army style . . .



During the afternoon "advance" the lead vehicle's crew signal and presence of "gas ahead."



With this sham danger overcome, the convoy forges on, passing all manner of obstacles. One sturdy carrier is here shown crossing a swift mountain stream.

RED CROSS IS ON JOB

Large Quantities of Medical and Surgical Equipment Being Landed Here For Emergency.

Considerable quantities of equipment in the way of blankets, mobile surgical units and other items with which the average layman is unfamiliar but which would be of the utmost value in the event of a local emergency have been moved into Prince Rupert by the Canadian Red Cross Society and the local branch is busy getting it housed and organized so as to be available at short notice. In addition to the equipment that is being sent in, local workers are also making dressings and other articles.

The latest equipment to arrive has been 150 blankets and forty surgical dressing units. The latter, it is estimated, is sufficient to take care of one thousand casualties, should the need arise.

The Prince Rupert Medical Association is co-operating with the Red Cross Society in planning for auxiliary hospital arrangements.

A complete surgical unit arrived some time ago and is at present stored at the Prince Rupert General Hospital.

Smuggled "Mill" In Good Service

Dutch Typewriter Survives To Do Duty In England

LONDON, Dec. 16: © — A portable typewriter which was smuggled out of Holland during the German invasion now is being used to record the log of a United States-built Hudson Bomber of the Netherlands Naval Air Force during raids over Europe.

The Hollander, navigator for the plane, before the war was with the Royal Netherlands Air Lines and used his portable to log commercial flights. Now, after he has guided his plane to its objectives and has assisted in the bombing operations, he takes out his portable and in the cramped quarters of his Hudson "office" prepares the log while the plane returns to its home base.

DEEPEST MINE-SHAFT
The deepest mine-shaft in the world is the one in the Morro Velho mine in Brazil which is more than 6,400 feet deep.

CHEERY WAR-TIME THOUGHTS

"Christmas is the time to forget our troubles and to remember old scenes, old friends, old happinesses."

—Sir Arthur Hays

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