

Local Temperature

Maximum 37
Minimum 31

Tonight's Dim-out

(Half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise.)
8:28 p.m. to 7:06 a.m.

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PRICE: FIVE CENTS

British Army Sweeping Forward

Civic Budget For 1943 Is Brought Down; Mill Rate Being Thereby Increased

The civic budget for 1943 was presented at last night's meeting of the city council. It provided for expenditures totalling \$514,537.16 with revenue from sources other than taxation estimated at \$327,568, leaving \$186,969.16 the amount to be raised by taxation.

After Ald. W. H. Brett, chairman of the finance committee, had introduced the estimates with a brief summary, the council resolved itself into committee of the whole with Ald. Brett as chairman to consider them.

Mayor W. M. Watts gave a more detailed statement as to the expenditures, comparing the estimates for this year with the actual expenditures for 1942. Some of these were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: 1943, 1942. Rows include Gen. Adm., Tel. Dept., Fire Dept., etc.

Table with 2 columns: 1943, 1942. Rows include Licences, Police fines, School grants, etc.

RUSSIANS PROGRESS

Red Army Still Making Progress Toward Smolensk—Holding In South

NAZIS HELD ON DONETS MOSCOW, March 23 (CP) — Battling numerically superior forces of Germans who continue to push up to the front, the Red Army of the Donets has pushed back every German effort to cross the waterway in force while on the central front the Russians continue to drive toward Smolensk, it was announced today.

MOSCOW, March 23 — The Russian column, driving southward toward the rail line from Bely following the capture of Durovo, has made new progress, the Russians announced yesterday. Forty towns and villages north of Durovo have been captured.

MINISTER IS CANDID

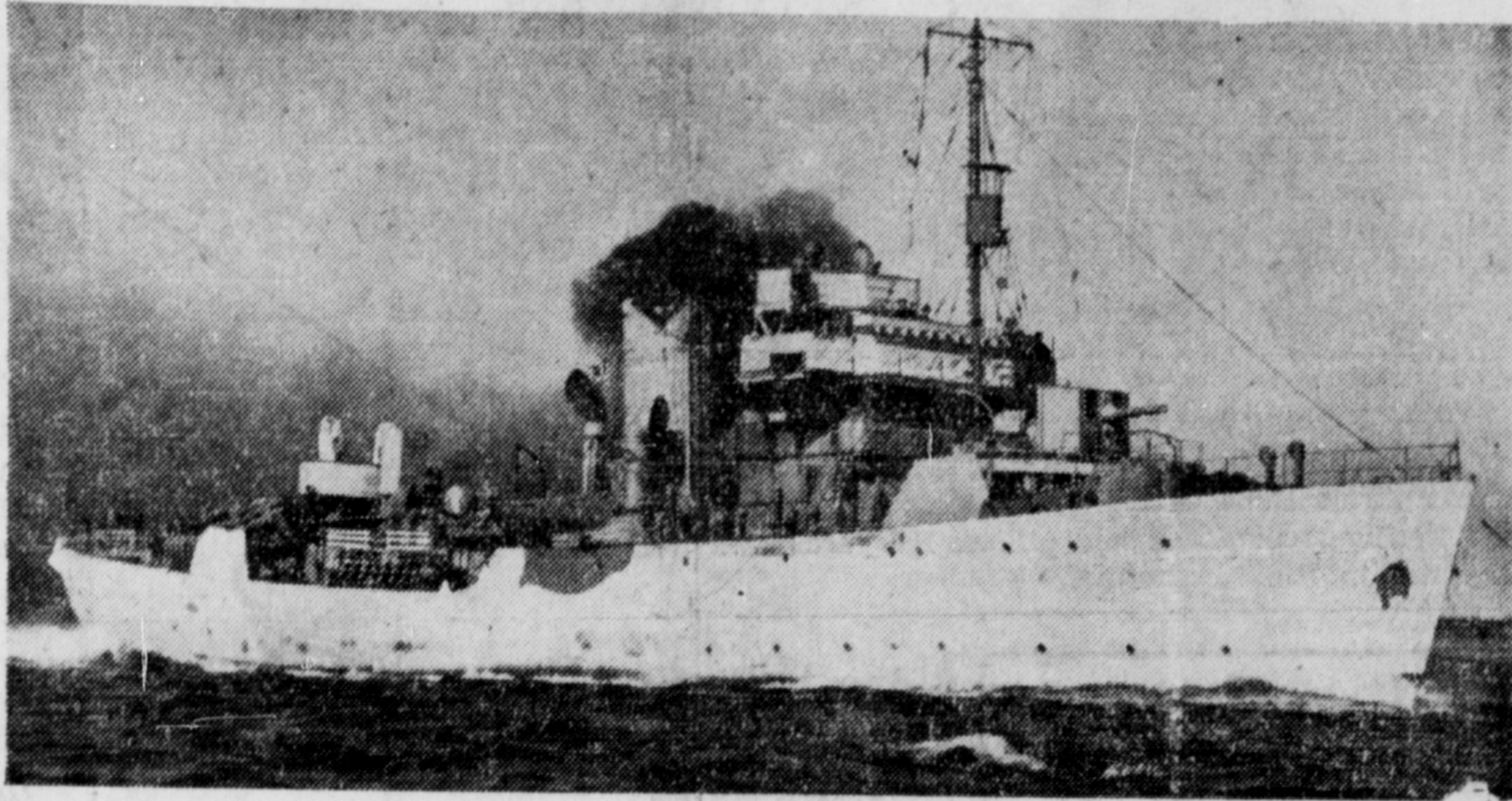
Minister of National Defence Thinks City Should Be More Co-operative

The city council was reminded last night in a letter from Hon. J. L. Ralston, minister of national defence, that all Canadians were engaged today in one task of achieving victory and that the city of Prince Rupert should be glad to assume its share in the task.

This hint was given out in conclusion of a letter from Col. Ralston replying to a communication from the city's co-ordinating committee in regard to relieving the water situation and other matters.

Col. Ralston's letter stated that the department had decided to bear expense not exceeding \$40,000 in connection with the installation of booster pump equipment in connection with the local water supply.

CORVETTE LOUISBURG SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN



ABOVE is one of the 17 Canadian corvettes which helped Gen. Eisenhower's troops in the North African action. H.M.C.S. Louisburg, a sister ship of the corvette ABOVE, has been sunk in the Mediterranean after being attacked by dive bombers and torpedo planes.

Pope Pius Has Severe Cold

Pontiff is Confined to Bed as Result of High Fever

NEW YORK, March 23 — Vatican City dispatch, broadcast by Berlin radio, said that Pope Pius is suffering from a severe cold and is confined to bed with a high fever. Physicians fear a lung inflammation. Nephews of His Holiness were called and spent the day at his bedside.

Americans Or Canadians In Northern Work

On motion of Ald. Black, the city council decided last night to communicate with the minister of labor in regard to a report that one thousand Canadians now employed by United States firms on northern war projects be replaced by United States citizens. Inquiry will be made if work in this district is involved in such an order and if any provision has been made in regard to the employment of local residents who might be involved in such a replacement.

No Smoking Rule Is Short Lived

Mayor and Aldermen Weakened After An Hour

A no smoking rule was in force for the first hour of last night's meeting of the city council before the mayor and members of the aldermanic board weakened.

ORIGINAL HIGH HEELS Actors in ancient Greek tragedies wore high heels to give them added height.

city on easy terms. Then there was the project of 2,000 feet of new wharf. He felt that such developments demonstrated the decided advantages accruing to the city as a result of forces being here.

The letter was referred without comment to the co-ordinating committee and the city engineer.

Military Work-Out

Largest and Most Realistic Manoeuvres Yet Led in Britain by General McNaughton

LONDON, March 23 (CP) — The largest and most realistic military workout ever held in Great Britain has been completed.

A large Canadian British force, commanded by Lieutenant General A. G. L. McNaughton, commander of the Canadian Army in Britain, completed a great attack exercise in which it battled forward for more than a week over an area of some four thousand square miles defended by a powerful army under Lieutenant General J. A. Gammell, general officer commanding - in - chief of British eastern command.

The exercise was test of attack from a bridgehead such as would have to be established on the enemy coast to serve as an anchor of an invading force, General McNaughton declared at a press conference after exercise of all Canadian Army formations.

"We are fit and ready" for actions, said McNaughton.

The big manoeuvres were the finest the training armies on both sides had ever had and he had never taken part in war trials from which so much value was obtained, McNaughton continued.

The Canadian commander-in-chief said that probably the most important lesson derived concerned co-ordination of land and air forces.

City Warned About Shortage of Wood

Communication From Wartime Prices and Trade Board Received Last Night

A communication from the War-time Prices and Trade Board urging the paramount importance of preparedness against a wood fuel shortage during next winter and suggestion that now is the time to start laying in supplies was received at last night's meeting of the city council.

Committed For Trial

Theft From Person Charge Arises Out of Incident on Third Avenue Sunday Afternoon

On a charge of theft from the person, Otto Seaberg was committed for trial yesterday in city police court by Magistrate W. D. Vance and will appear tomorrow before Judge W. E. Fisher for election. The charge arose from an incident on Third Avenue near Biggar Place on Saturday when Seaberg is alleged to have relieved Oscar Setterberg of over \$112 in cash. William Rance assisted the police in apprehending Seabery, phoning on witnessing the incident and trailing accused until Constables Walker, Sinclair and Ferguson were met and took him in custody.

NO CHANGE CONSIDERED

Wartime Housing Candid in Refusing New Deal to City

Wartime Housing Limited is not disposed to enter into any new agreement with the city for better terms, it was made clear in a communication from Joseph M. Piggott, president of Wartime Housing, which was read at last night's meeting of the city council.

This was the answer to a communication recently sent by the city Mr. Piggott on the matter, the city feeling that, under the existing arrangement, the city was not receiving an adequate measure of recompense for the services it was rendering and the increased costs involved through greater industrial population.

Mr. Piggott's letter said that the amounts being paid by Wartime Housing to Prince Rupert were similar to those paid in the rest of Canada for similar services. It was felt that Prince Rupert was not suffering any undue hardship.

The letter was received without comment and referred to the co-ordinating committee.

Red Cross Does Well At Exstew

The Terrace branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society has received a substantial contribution of \$758 representing the subscriptions of the McNamara Construction Co's road map employees at Exstew. A notable feature of the McNamara list is the large number of \$15 and \$10 individual subscriptions.

MARETH IS HARD FIGHT

Operations Are Continuing Satisfactorily, Declares British Communique

CUTTING AXIS OFF

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 23 (CP) —American armored forces have captured Maknassy in a slash toward the sea to cut Axis communications, Allied headquarters announced in a communique today. Reports said that part of the British Eighth Army had swept in a wide arc around the Mareth Line and were now many miles inside it.

While the Americans stabbed to within less than thirty-four miles of the Gulf of Gabes, other forces of the Eighth Army swung a mighty frontal blow at the Mareth Line.

The communique said that operations there were going ahead on schedule despite a bitter contest put up by Axis forces which yesterday attempted a powerful counter-attack that was repulsed. The announcement said that 1,700 Axis prisoners were captured in this operation.

LONDON, March 23 — Royal Air Force squadrons, accompanied by big Royal Canadian Air Force bombers, smashed at the German submarine base of St. Nazaire last night in the wake of a heavy assault on Wilhelmshafen by American bombers yesterday afternoon.

British whirlwind fighter bombers also blasted railway targets in Brittany during the night's operations which cost one heavy bomber, the Air Ministry said.

To Deal With Washington

The city council will get in touch with Washington, D.C., with a view to obtaining a more equitable basis of terms for leasing by the United States government of property in Prince Rupert. The council had been already in communication with the United States War Department at Edmonton which suggested it go direct to Washington.

BULLETINS

TRAFFIC BYLAW IN The new street traffic bylaw was finally introduced at last night's meeting of the city council and will be considered further in committees during the coming week with a view to being brought up again at next week's council meeting.

TO VISIT B.C. OTTAWA — Progressive Conservative Leader John Bracken said he planned to spend a week or ten days in British Columbia in April. Details of the itinerary are now being worked out.

POSTAL RATES OTTAWA—The Post Office Department announced today that the personal postcard rate of two cents will be increased to three cents on April 1 along with a one cent increase in first class letter rate.

ENGLAND BOMBED LONDON — The northeast of England was bombed last night and also coastal regions. Incendiaries were dropped by the enemy.

Advance In N. Guinea

Allies, Infiltrating Against Japanese, Occupy Mambare River Area

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, March 23 — The Allies, infiltrating farther against the Japanese in New Guinea, now occupy the Mambare River area on the northeast coast, the Allied command announced.

The Mambare River is more than forty miles up the coast from Buna which the Allies took from the Japanese and is about one hundred miles down from Salamaua, one of the principal bases still remaining to the Japanese in New Guinea.

AIR FORCE IS ACTIVE

British and Canadian Bombers Hit At St. Nazaire and Americans At Wilhelmshafen

LONDON, March 23 — Royal Air Force squadrons, accompanied by big Royal Canadian Air Force bombers, smashed at the German submarine base of St. Nazaire last night in the wake of a heavy assault on Wilhelmshafen by American bombers yesterday afternoon.

Renewal Fund For Utilities

Plan of Ald. Daggett Not in Compliance With Municipal Act—Another Accepted

A proposal of Ald. H. M. Daggett that ten percent of the gross revenue of the various utilities of the city be placed in special funds to provide for future extension and new equipment having been found incompatible with the provisions of the Municipal Act, the city council last night decided instead to have a bylaw prepared which would provide for the setting aside of four percent of the profits of each department for renewal and extension purposes. Under the plan of Ald. Daggett it had been estimated that some \$12,000 would be laid aside each year. Under the plan which was accepted the amount will be \$1,200.

Trades Licence For Extracts

Police Propose Means of Checking Those Who Deal in Commodity

As a means of checking on the sale of extracts in the city, Inspector Ernest Gammon, provincial police, had a letter before the city council last night proposing that the trade licence bylaw be amended to provide for the payment of a licence fee of \$50 every six months by every person who sells or offers for sale such extracts and that any person convicted under this section shall have the trade licence held by him cancelled.

No Losses On Naples Raid

Allied Bombers All Returned Safely From Their Attack on Great Italian Port

CAIRO, March 23 — Allied bombers, which raided Naples again Saturday night, scoring many hits on the target area, returned without loss.