

Friday, Feb. 18	
High	7:52 18.2 feet
	21:16 15.3 feet
Low	1:10 9.0 feet
	14:35 7.0 feet

## Fierce Battle on Beachhead

### Allies Are Holding Below Rome Against Heavy Enemy Thrusts

NAPLES, Feb. 17 (CP)—A fierce battle has broken the lull on the beachhead south of Rome with the Germans launching heavy attacks on the northern sector but Allied forces indicated they were holding against continued enemy thrusts. Both sides have thrown tanks into the fight. Enemy aircraft are in unusual force but Allied planes met them blow for blow.

Hand-to-hand fighting continues in Cassino.

There have been heavy Allied air attacks on the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead and Rome has again been bombed.

The Cassino monastery has been bombed again and is now practically destroyed. Germans are holding positions in pillboxes around the monastery.

#### NEW OBJECTIVE

### Gulf Of Finland City Hit

Russian Parachutists Land Behind Lines—Drive on Pskov Continues.

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 17 (C.P.)—Russian parachutists landed behind the German lines at Narva and Russian naval vessels in the Gulf of Finland pounded the Estonian city as Soviet forces pressed in from the East. Helsinki dispatches said that parachutists were still fighting from positions on the bank of Narva.

The Red Army met increased resistance in a drive on Pskov from two directions but northwest of the city the Soviets captured Samolva and developed a new threat to the Pskov-Riga railway.

The Red Air Force is holding the initiative along the entire Russo-German front.

### SUCCEED IN FIRST AID

After completing a seven-weeks' course of instruction in First Aid principles, conducted here by J. Cook, regional supervisor of First Aid, Western Region, Canadian National Railways, twenty employees of the drydock and shipyard and six railway workers have successfully passed examinations for St. John Ambulance diplomas. Nine of these employees were also examined for the Industrial Certificate issued by the British Columbia Workmen's Compensation Board with good results.

Awards were obtained by the following: St. John Ambulance Diplomas—Drydock: Susie Weder, Nancy Davies, Jesse Arnold, Ivan Little, Orville Wenner, Howard Carson, R. E. Eyoifson, L. Colussi, J. L. A. Murray, J. H. Fredheim, Wilfred St. Clair, August Lips, Thomas Hennessey, Carl Glazie, T. A. Bryant, James Brown, E. J. McConnell, Fred Green, Eileen R. Fairholm, R.N., Mary A. Brooks, R.N., J. D. Allen.

Railway—Clarence Reimer, W. N. Armstrong, J. A. Teng, P. A. Bond, A. E. Blackhall. Industrial Certificates—Eileen R. Fairholm, R.N., Mary A. Brooks, R.N., L. Colussi, T. A. Bryant, James Brown, E. J. McConnell, J. D. Allen, J. A. Teng and A. E. Blackhall.

Examinations were conducted by Drs. C. H. Hankinson and J. A. Macdonald of Prince Rupert.

### Joining With New Federation

The local Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Union, No. 4, has voted to affiliate with certain reservations with the Shipyard and General Workers' Federation. The vote in favor of affiliation with the new federation was by two-thirds margin.



CANADIANS IN MARINE RESCUE—Five Canadian ratings from H.M.C.S. Hepatica went to the aid of a stricken tanker after fire had broken out on her bridge and superstructure, endangering a precious cargo of fuel oil and airplanes. From left to right, they are L-S. M. Miller of New Toronto; AB. J.W. Andrew of Victoria; Stoker D. J. Elder of Peace River; AB. Gordon Knechtel of Vancouver; and AB R. C. Cuthbert of Merritt, Ont. (R.C.N. Photo.)

### Churchill Will Make Statement

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Prime Minister Winston Churchill will give a review of the war at the next series of sittings of Parliament, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced today.

### Canol Project Is Completed

EDMONTON, Feb. 17.—The Canol oil pipe line from Fort Norman to Whitehorse was completed with the welding of the canol pipe today. The \$130,000,000 project will now be tested.

#### DARING EXPLOITS

### Corvette Rescued 23 Men

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—Bucking twenty-foot Atlantic swells and snow squalls, the captain of a Canadian corvette, H.M.C.S. Hepatica, laid his ship alongside a blazing tanker to rescue 23 men and help save a cargo valued at close to \$1,500,000, it was announced today by Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, Minister of National Defence for Naval Services.

The corvette ran so close to the tanker that their plates brushed. The tanker, carrying 7,600 tons of fuel oil and twelve new airplanes.

One member of the tanker's crew was killed in the first of two collisions which started the blaze. One plane suffered slight damage but only 600 tons of fuel oil were lost. No R.C.N. personnel were injured.

H.M.C.S. Hepatica is one of the first of the "Flower class" corvettes, launched at Quebec in July, 1940. She is captained by Lt. J. A. Ferguson, R.C.N.R. of Canso, N.S., a veteran of the merchant service who in peacetime was port captain at Windsor, N.S.

Lt. Ferguson's log of the action shows that Hepatica was proceeding through snow squalls and rough weather in convoy when a bright flash was observed at 3:15 and she was detailed to investigate.

She found the tanker with her bridge and superstructure ablaze. Another tanker with defective steering gear had side-swiped her and deflected her into the path of a Liberty ship. She thus suffered blows on both her port and starboard sides, the second collision killing her wireless operator and igniting some high-test gasoline carried by the ship's motorboat. Fire flared up and was fanned by the strong wind.

By the time Hepatica arrived on the scene, the tanker had low- (Continued on page 4)

### To Ask Change in Libel Laws

VICTORIA, Feb. 17. (C.P.)—Former Premier T. D. Pattullo asked leave in the legislature on Wednesday to introduce a bill to amend the Slander and Libel Act so newspapers which publish criticism of any individual or any individual's policy would be forced to publish that individual's reply without depletion or alteration.

Mr. Pattullo said that libel would not have to be proved before the application of the proposal.

#### RAILWAY CHANGES

### Supervisory Staff Being Reorganized

High Officials Are Involved in Important C.N.R. Promotions

MONTREAL, Feb. 17.—Owing to the increase of traffic and the expanding activities of the western region of the Canadian National Railways caused by wartime conditions, it has become necessary to enlarge the supervisory administration of that territory, according to an announcement made today by N. B. Walton, executive vice-president, in appointing a general manager for the region to relieve the heavy burden carried by W. R. Devenish as vice-president and general manager. Mr. Devenish now becomes vice-president of the western region and Walter C. Owens, of Winnipeg, hitherto assistant general manager, has been appointed general manager and will maintain headquarters at Winnipeg.

Traffic density, which is the railway measure of operating activity, during 1943 reached a volume practically equal to that of 1928 which established an all-time record for the western region, these two years providing the highest traffic density during a period of 21 years. The region extends from the head of the Great Lakes to the Pacific coast and includes the Canadian National shipbuilding facilities.

Other promotions and appointments of senior officers in the Canadian National Railways system are also announced by Mr. Walton.

### DOUKS GATHER CARDS, PAPERS

SHOREACRES, B.C., Feb. 17. (C.P.)—Two hundred radical Sons of Freedom Doukhobors started another collection of registration cards, ration books and land titles here yesterday before crossing the Kootenay river to Glade. There they continued meetings in connection with their membership drive.

#### TRUE BOMBED

Several hundred United States planes bombed the important Japanese base of Truk in the Southwest Pacific today.

the Canadian National Railways system are also announced by Mr. Walton.

J. F. Pringle has been appointed vice-president and general manager, central region, with headquarters at Toronto, succeeding Major F. L. C. Bond, D.S.O., who has retired after 45 years' railway service. Mr. Pringle was previously vice-president and general manager, Atlantic region, with headquarters at Moncton, N.B.

J. P. Johnson, hitherto chief of transportation stationed at Montreal, has been named vice-president and general manager, Atlantic region, to succeed Mr. Pringle. Out of nearly 40 years of railroading, Mr. Johnson was employed for the greater part of that period in positions throughout the prairie provinces.

J. W. Wardlaw has been appointed chief of transportation for the system to succeed Mr. Johnson at Montreal. Mr. Wardlaw has been general superintendent, transportation, central region, with office at Toronto.

### Canadian Officers, Now Surplus, Are Being Loaned to British Army

OTTAWA, Feb. 17. (C.P.)—A large number of Canadian officers are being loaned to the British Army immediately. Hon. J. L. Flaxton, minister of national defence, told the House of Commons yesterday that the Canadian Army has a surplus of officers and that the government would allow officers to get double pay while on loan.

### Extension Of Coast Fishery

Removal of Fraser River Obstruction to Salmon and Extension of Three Mile Limit Advocated.

The Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce has received correspondence from the Pacific Northwest Trade Association dealing with the questions of the blockade of salmon at Hell's Gate in the Fraser River and the advisability of extending the three-mile limit as a measure of protection of the North Pacific fisheries for Canada and the United States.

As for the fisheries blockade at Hell's Gate, the suggestion is that the governments of the United States and Canada jointly appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000.

The extension of the three-mile limit is proposed chiefly to ensure against foreign incursion such as that of Japan a few years ago.

In discussion at this week's chamber meeting it was pointed out that the Dominion government had already appropriated the sum of \$1,000,000 for a fisheries stairway at Hell's Gate.

As for the extension of the three-mile limit, the International Fisheries Commission (Canada and the United States) has already considered taking the continental shelf off this coast under its wing.

## New Teachers' Salary Schedule

### Increases Are Provided For, Minister Announces In Legislature Debate

Free Text Book System is Being Extended—More Generous Grants—Talks "Back to Land"—New Spirit of Intergovernmental Co-operation.

VICTORIA, Feb. 17 (CP)—Hon. H. G. T. Perry, minister of education, announced yesterday while speaking in the Throne Speech debate in the Legislature that a new salary schedule for rural teachers guarantees annual increments of \$60 annually for five years with a minimum of \$840 per year to start.

Urbanization which will be keenly felt when the war ends. Urbanization in the decade from 1921 was three to four times faster in British Columbia than in Ontario and on the prairies and six to seven times faster than in the Maritimes.

### New Intergovernmental Spirit Is Urged

Discussing the approaching dominion-provincial rehabilitation conference, the minister took the broad Canadian viewpoint: "The provinces should not go to Ottawa as jockeys riding their respective provincial horses but in a spirit of goodwill and mutual trust." He advised a spirit of lend-lease between the provinces and the dominion.

The legislature must approach postwar problems in despair but with courage and faith," asserted Mr. Perry who concluded by saying that "a great cornerstone may be laid at the dominion-provincial conference for a new temple of Canadian unity and from a common purpose to meet our responsibilities successfully."

### BOMBING HELSINKI

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 17. (C.P.)—Russian bombers, twenty to fifty in number, dropped explosives and incendiaries again last night on Helsinki the capital of Finland.

### New Labor Code Is Announced

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—Minister of Labor Mitchell today announced a new labor relations code providing for compulsory collective bargaining in war and other industries under government control.

### Democracy and Education Was In Discussion

Breen Melvin of the Young Men's Christian Association Services and in civilian life a school teacher led an interesting discussion at the local C.C.F. Club in Valhalla Hall Tuesday night on the subject of "Democracy and Education."

Nicholas Bird was in the chair and a number of the good-sized audience took part in a general discussion which followed. Refreshments were served.

The biggest diamond find in South Africa was the "Cullinan" which weighed about 3,106 carats.

### KAVIENG IS UNDER FIRE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Feb. 17. (C.P.)—A heavy raid on the Japanese base at Kavieng, New Ireland, which left the town in a mass of flames, and consolidation of positions won on Green Islands were reported by Allied headquarters today.

Four-engined American bombers dropped 55 tons of bombs yesterday on the Caroline Islands, thus extending their striking power further.

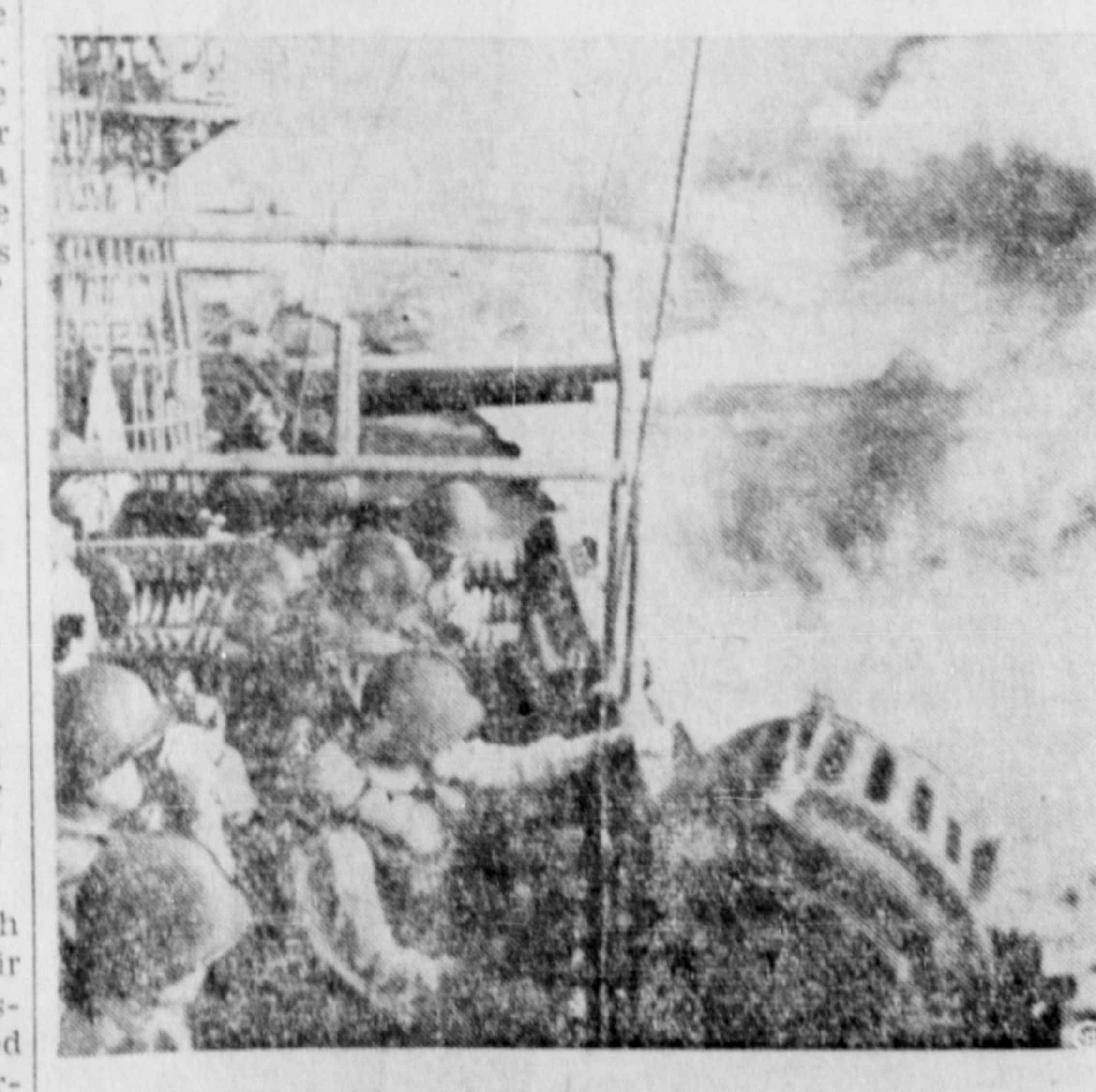
### Removal of Toll On Highway Not Approved Here

The Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce, at its regular monthly meeting this week, declined to endorse a proposal for submission to the provincial department of public works that the toll be removed from the Cariboo Highway.

The proposal came from the Automotive Transport Association of New Westminster which operates commercial vehicles such as trucks, buses and taxis.

S. E. Parker, chairman of the highway committee, felt that it might have been a different matter had the request been made on behalf of private car owners who paid \$51,000 of the tolls in a year as against \$29,000 by the trucks, etc. It should be remembered that it cost a great deal to maintain and keep the highway open and the toll was a means of deriving revenue from motorists from outside the province who used the highway. The communication was filed.

Alexander the Great found bananas growing in the valley of the Indus in India in 327 B.C.



HAMMERING JAPS IN SOUTH PACIFIC—Straining eyes of the officers on the bridge, follow the course of shells being pumped into Jap positions as the mighty guns of this U.S. warship belch destruction for the enemy in the Pacific, just such naval bombardments, augmented by aerial bombing, preceded the U.S. marine and army landings on the Marshalls.

### LEASE SLOWS DOWN

New Finds Itself With Ample Machinery on Hand.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (C.P.)—The actual elimination of capital goods shipments to Britain under Lend-Lease is understood to have been agreed on by British and American supply officials. The decision is one of numerous adjustments to keep Lend-Lease geared to military needs. Machinery going to Britain is increasing steadily because British plants now have all they need. So far as has been learned, no major change in lease-lend shipments to Russia has been made except that the proportion of railway equipment increased in recent weeks.

Prisoners considered even numbers as female, odd numbers male.