

# The Daily News

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER

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## Death Toll In Toronto Ship Fire May Reach 226

### Night of Death, Horror As Cruise Vessel Burns at Dock

Passengers and Crew Trapped by Fire Aboard Noronic—Greatest Lakes Ship Disaster in More Than a Century

(By the Canadian Press)

TORONTO—The worst ship fire in a century of Great Lakes history swept through the cruise ship Noronic at dock in the early morning darkness today and made its torn, sunken hull the tomb of at least 192 people. Death toll may rise to 226.

Eight hours after the first alarm at 2:38 a.m. more

than 80 broken, burned bodies had been recovered. Only the main deck had been searched. Scores more are believed to be packed in the submerged rotunda of the lower deck.

A total of 226 passengers, firemen and crew men are unaccounted for. Fire Chief Heard said that it might be days before all the bodies below the water line can be recovered. It will be necessary to pump out the ship, he said.

Canada Steamship Lines officials had not released the passenger list of 512 and the crew list of 173.

An emergency morgue was set up in the horticultural building of the Canadian National Exhibition. Huddled in hospital corridors and hotel lobbies the burned, hysterical survivors told of the night of horror and heroism in which they were hauled or scrambled from the burning ship.

For half an hour after the flames enveloped the vessel, Capt. William Taylor stood in the bow throwing ropes to passengers going over the side. He burst in cabin doors, hauling women on deck, then left by a ladder which collapsed. He was pulled from the icy bay.

Chick Yates, a Vancouver crewman of the Noronic, lowered two women over the side, then was trapped himself. He dove overboard.

"Everywhere you looked there was a body," a fire captain said. Police halted the search for bodies after they had found 192, including three who died in hospital.

Hundreds escaped by sliding down ropes leading to the dock on the edge of the waterfront in the downtown area. The flame-driven panic which went through the ship drove some passengers into the companionways where they perished. Many were burned in their bunks.

The fire was the worst on the Lakes since the steamer Phoenix burned in 1847 with 247 dead. Four years ago a sister ship of the Noronic, the Hamonic, burned near Sarnia with one dead.

The Noronic was of 6,900 tons and was built 36 years ago. It is not known where the fire started.

The Department of Transport is launching an investigation. Majority of the passengers were American. There were only 20 Canadians aboard.

### CITY PIONEER DIES AT SMITHERS

SMITHERS—Hugh V. Boswell, a well-known resident of Prince Rupert in the early part of the century and a resident of Smithers since 1925, died Friday evening following a heart attack.

Born in Scotland 73 years ago, deceased had been an employee of the Hanson Timber Co. for a number of years.

The funeral will be held at Smithers, probably Tuesday.

### BASEBALL SUNDAY PLAY-OFFS

DOUBLE-HEADER, 1:30 P.M. MERCHANTS vs. SAVOY

### CITY MAN GETS SPORTS POST AT CIVIC CENTRE

The newly-created position of recreation and sports director at the Civic Centre was awarded last night to Fred Calderoni, a city man. Mr. Calderoni's application was approved by a meeting of the Civic Centre executive.

Applications for the post also were received from men in Moose Jaw and Vancouver.

Mr. Calderoni has for many years been an outstanding athlete in this district and has excelled in many types of sport. During the last two years he has been an arbiter in basketball competition and is senior referee of the city league.

An army veteran, he is married and has a young family. During the war he qualified as a physical training instructor and instructed in sports of all kinds. He rose from the ranks to become an officer at Currie Barracks, Calgary and was responsible for physical and sports training in his unit.

The post was created by the Civic Centre to meet the needs of an increasing membership. Last year the centre had 1,083 members and this year 1,600. It is anticipated that 1949-50 membership will be about double that of 1947-48, or about 2100 members.

It will be Mr. Calderoni's responsibility to organize and teach basketball, handball, squash, volley ball, badminton and other recreation groups of all ages. Leagues will be formed under Mr. Calderoni's supervision for many of these popular sports.

### HAND BURNED IN HOUSE FIRE

Fire broke out in the kitchen of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Martin, 218 Ninth Avenue East at 10 o'clock this morning. In attempting to put out the fire, Mrs. Martin suffered severe burns to her hand which required medical treatment. Cause of the fire was said to be from clothes hanging too close to the fire.

### WESTERNS WIN LACROSSE TITLE

VANCOUVER—Burrard Westerns closed out New Westminster Adanacs 9-6 to capture the best-of-seven inter-city lacrosse series four games to two in a major upset.

The plant, he said, covers an area of approximately four acres, on which have been erected 10 steel tanks to accommodate bulk storage of approximately a quarter of a million gallons of refined petroleum products.

"The cost of the new installation is in the vicinity of \$100,000 and the construction work has been carried out entirely by local labor," he said.

Following the tape cutting ceremony by Mrs. Blackaby, the guests visited the commodious warehouse and offices and saw the modern equipment for loading and unloading from marine tanker and rail tank cars. They were guided by company representatives, including Alan Morgan, who has been appointed local agent. Each guest received a souvenir present from the company.



HISTORIC OCCASION—State Secretary Bradley, Newfoundland member of the cabinet, greets four other Newfoundland Liberal members of Parliament as they arrive on Parliament Hill for the opening of the session Thursday. The first members to sit in the federal house from Newfoundland, they are, left to right: Mr. Bradley, T. G. W. Ashbourne (Grand Falls-White Bay); L. T. Stick (Trinity-Conception); W. P. Kent (Humber-St. George's); and C. W. Carter (C. P. Photo)

### CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CITIZENS, NEW ENTERPRISES VITAL TO DISTRICT

Confidence in Prince Rupert and co-operation between the city and incoming business enterprises were the keynotes of speakers at the formal opening Friday afternoon of the new \$100,000 Shell Oil Co. distributing plant at Morse Creek.

The opening took place at 3 o'clock before an audience of 200 guests who saw Mrs. G. R. S. Blackaby, wife of the president of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce, cut the red and yellow ribbon to the new plant which will distribute Shell products throughout central British Columbia.

The opening address was made by Mr. Blackaby while N. Y. Knox, vice-president and general manager of the company's British Columbia operations outlined the background of Shell's expansion in this city, before the assemblage at the plant gate.

"The plant itself and the Shell tanker 'M.V. Western Shell' which stood at the nearby unloading dock were decked with red and yellow bunting—the company colors—lending a gala atmosphere to the events. The guests had an opportunity to inspect the building and petroleum storage facilities as well as the 'M.V. Western Shell,' before re-gathering at the Moose Temple where a reception was held.

D. R. McKerricher, the company's district manager, was master of ceremonies at the function, introducing Mr. Knox and Mr. Blackaby.

Mr. Blackaby told the gathering that "Prince Rupert is not looking forward to an era of development. We already are in an era of development."

Three things are necessary in order for the resources of this area to achieve development, Mr. Blackaby declared. He listed them as: 1. Confidence and faith in the country. 2. Willingness on the part of the people to give practical evidence of their faith by investment and action. 3. Co-operation and support of local people to new industries which establish themselves here.

"By setting up this fine new plant, Shell Oil Co. is showing confidence in this area," Mr. Blackaby said. "It is up to us, by co-operation and support, to show them that their confidence is solidly founded."

Mr. Knox described the physical facilities of the new plant and declared that he believed that its creation "is a further contribution to the general economic picture" of British Columbia. He lauded the co-operation and support which the company had received in its initial progress in Prince Rupert.

"Our special thanks are due to the municipal officials of Prince Rupert, various Prince Rupert suppliers of construction materials; the Industrial Commissioner and division officials of the C.N.R.; the Board of Grain Commissioners and officials of the Royal Canadian Navy and War Assets Corporation," he declared.

### MAXIM SHAPIRO, KEYBOARD BOSS, HERE OCTOBER 5

Called by critics, "a master of the keyboard," Maxim Schapiro, pianist, will be heard here on October 15 under the auspices of the Civic Centre Association. Travelling to far places and with a close schedule suits this genial busy Russian who now can call the United States his home country.

His concert here will be one of five played within two weeks at New York, San Francisco, Bellingham and Mill Valley, where he owns a little bungalow. He tells with real amusement of his Fairbanks concert when a bad earthquake shook the theatre and his piano began sliding away from him.

He says, "I looked out at that audience in half panic and then I struck the biggest smashing chord and played hard and fast—just notes—I do not know what I played, but soon the shaking was over," and on this same tour, the piano at another Alaska city literally broke in two while he played—"but soon we had another, and the concert went on."

Back of all these experiences



MAXIM SHAPIRO

so dear to Schapiro's heart, are the important engagements at the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. where only those honored by the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation, can play; his five performances as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony orchestra, under Pierre Monteux; many NBC broadcasts; concerts for the students at Western Washington College, Bellingham where they request Schapiro annually if he is in the Northwest; and recently a Hartford, Connecticut music festival where six living composers' works were played, directed by the composer. Mr. Schapiro at the piano in each number.

### THE WEATHER

#### Synopsis

A storm which lay 500 miles west of Vancouver Island early this morning is headed for the British Columbia coast and southeast gale warnings have been issued for the Queen Charlotte Islands and the west and north coast of Vancouver Island. Winds in the straits of Georgia will reach about 25 mph this evening.

Rain will begin along the northern coast this morning and reach the Vancouver area late this afternoon and then move into the interior overnight. The weather tomorrow in the wake of the storm will be cool and showery in all parts of the province.

#### Forecast

North Coast Region — Overcast today. Rain commencing about noon. Cloudy with frequent showers tomorrow. Remaining cool. Southerly winds (20 increasing to southeast gales (40 by early afternoon and shifting to southwest (30) this evening. Low tonight and high tomorrow—at Port Hardy, Massett and Prince Rupert 45 and 53.

### Family News Meets Three Cabinet Ministers and Pair of CCF Members

Thomas Crerar Sees Big Things For British Columbia and Prince Rupert

(By G. A. HUNTER)

Senator Thomas A. Crerar, who was among the notables aboard the Montreal train on its representative of the Daily News travelling this week, said that attention of Canada on the Pacific arena and that a well-developed British Columbia would become one of the

most important provinces in the west. Another was Arthur Beaubien, also of Winnipeg, and Wesley Stambaugh, Alberta's latest new member of the Red Chamber, who received his appointment as a surprise even to himself just a week ago.

Stambaugh is a plain steady-going rancher from Bruce, south-east of Edmonton, who was born in Michigan about sixty years ago and drove into Alberta in 1910 with team of oxen, took up a homestead and, by hard work and thrift, achieved success as a rather big scale stock raiser. When his two sons came home from the war, serving with distinction in the Royal Canadian Air Force (one winning the D.F.C.), he retired.

Stambaugh has never served as either a member of Parliament or of a legislature but has been a town councillor and member of school and hospital boards in his home town.

Apparently he has been a long-standing worker in party organization for he is now president of the Alberta Liberal Association. He confessed that, since the war and the return of his sons to take over the ranching, he has pretty well devoted himself to political organization. Now he represents Alberta agriculture in the Senate.

MEETING A MINISTER  
Minister of Labor Humphrey Mitchell was also aboard this train hurrying back to Ottawa for the opening of the session after a rush trip to Edmonton for the funeral of the chief justice of Alberta. Mr. Mitchell asked what Harry Archibald C.C.F. member of the last Parliament, was now doing. Keenly interested as always in personalities, he also wanted to know all about Ted Applewhite, the new Liberal member for Skeena. The Minister was unaware of current developments of an industrial nature in and around Prince Rupert.

Angus McInnis of Vancouver East, who is now one of the real veterans of the Canadian Parliament as he rounds out his twentieth straight year of service and his bright and well-versed wife, Grace, was also on board. Angus, reading as always, gave up half an hour from his books, talking about political tolerance and displaying it as he reminisced about Parliament.

NEW SENATOR  
One of three Senators who met on the

train was Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who served as agriculture with Borden's wartime resignation therefrom and was for years a member of the King government being appointed in 1946. He was heading for Winnipeg for the Parliament on Thursday.

September 18, 1949  
10:37 16.4 feet  
22:20 18.6 feet  
4:11 6.0 feet  
16:21 9.9 feet

### Wrestling Tournament

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Frank Stojak vs. Leo Karlenko  
Tacoma Seattle Badman

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Day Winner vs. Jack McLaughlan  
Junior Heavyweight Champion  
For Northern B. C. Championship

8:30 p.m. — Main Event 9:30 p.m. (nightly)

CIVIC CENTRE, PRINCE RUPERT

General Admission \$1.00 Students 50c (including tax)

Bus Depot, Civic Centre