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# The Daily News

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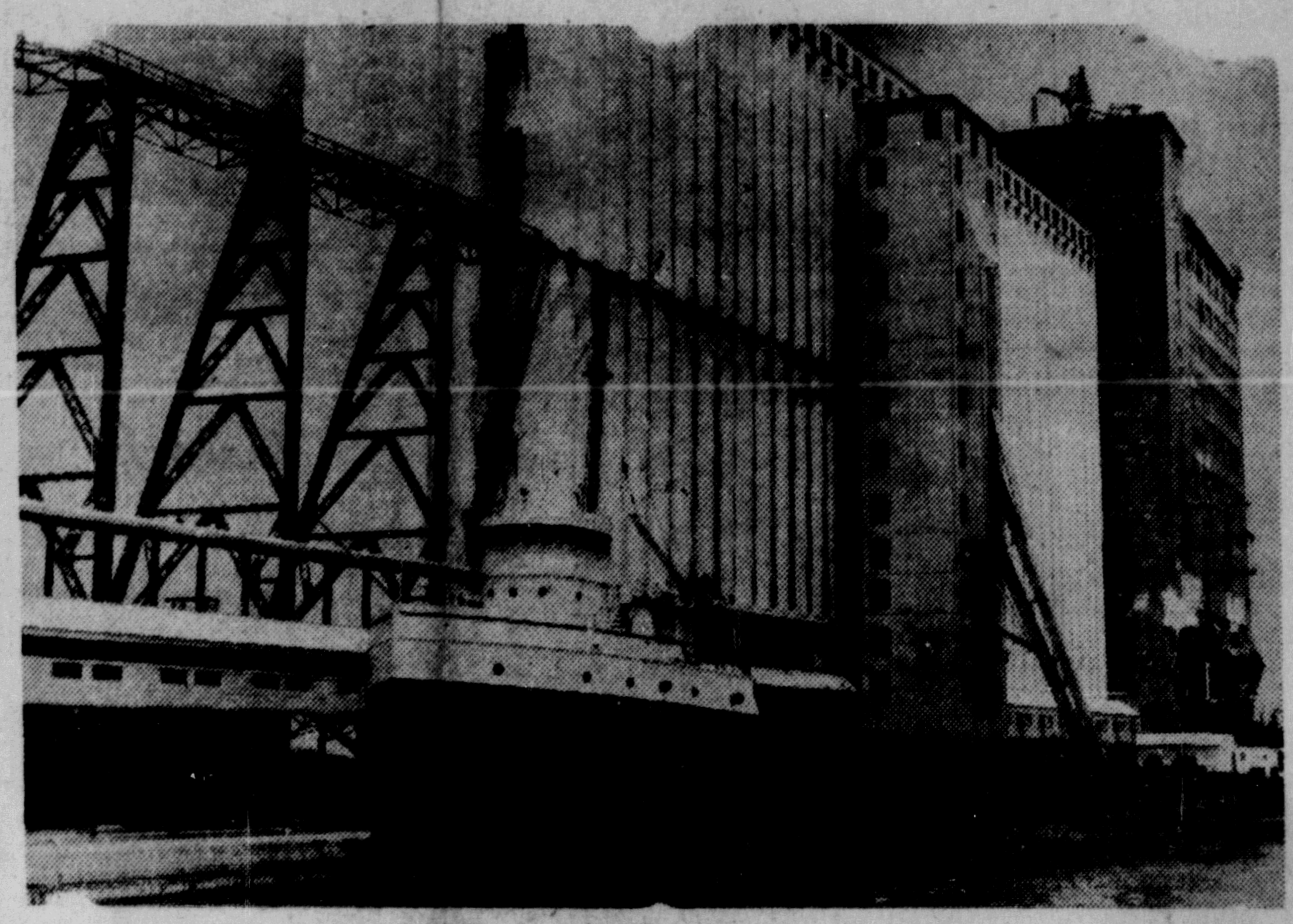
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**ORMES DRUGS**  
Daily Delivery  
PHONE 81

## Canadian Austerity Program Is Relaxed

CANADA RACES WINTER—CLOSING OF GREAT LAKES SHIPPING SEASON.



Golden product of western fields pours into elevator bin



Elevator at Port Colborne on Lake Erie dwarfs freighter

### Great Improvement in Financial Position of Dominion is Announced

Lifting of Restrictions Effective January 1—Canadians Can Spend More in U.S.—Import Ban Eased

OTTAWA (CP)—Too late for the Christmas rush, the government today set January 1 as the date for the relaxation of bans on personal purchases brought back to Canada from the United States and simultaneously opened the way again for import of many foods and manufactured goods. Hon. Douglas Abbott, minister of finance, announced the relaxation in the government's austerity program because of a marked improvement in Canada's official holdings of gold and United States dollars.

Mr. Abbott disclosed that hard currency—dollar—holdings climbed to \$854,000,000 by September 30 of this year from a low point just a year ago of \$416,000,000, thus permitting substantial modification of dollar-conservation measures put into effect November 17 1947.

The minister announced:

Returning Canadians will be able again to take back home, subject to the usual regulations, incidentally, purchases valued at \$100 or more. The government provided a list of goods that can be imported.

Import will now be limited to \$150 in United States goods for any Canadian returning from the United States and that \$100 in personal purchases would naturally have to come out of that.

At the same time Mr. Abbott announced that the government's "budgetary surplus" for the first eight months of the current fiscal year now totals \$560,000,000 as compared with \$575,000,000 accumulated at the same date a year ago. The November surplus totalled \$826,400,000.

Government officials said that lifting of the restrictions on purchases in the United States means that Canadians can once again, starting January 1, bring in say, radios, shirts, ties, records—or what have you—up to the value of \$100 without paying customs duty. There will, however, be the traditional ban against bringing in quantities of items which made it appear the purchaser was in business in that field.

### MARGARINE MAY BE SLOW

TORONTO (CP)—The sale of butter substitutes is now legal, but housewives are liable to find them scarce for a while.

A survey in Toronto shows that that city will get its first supplies of margarine in a few days, since a plant in the city is ready to start manufacturing the formerly banned product. It may be some time before it gets to other sections of the country. More will be available after March 31 when Newfoundland becomes a province.

Price of margarine is not yet set, although it is estimated that it will cost from 35 to 38 cents as compared to 74 for butter. No dairies so far have announced plans to manufacture butterine, but it is a possibility. The dairy industry fears the effect of the new competition and predicts a reduction of livestock herds with a consequent damage to top soil.

### FOUR PERSONS BURN TO DEATH IN MID-TORONTO ROOMING HOUSE FIRE

TORONTO (CP)—Four persons were burned to death today in a sudden blaze which reduced a three-storey brick rooming house near the Young Women's Christian Association on College Street off Bloor in mid-town Toronto to a shell in one hour.

The dead are: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Steel, aged about 60. John Henderson, 62. Pearl Bingham, 42.

The bodies were found in the top storey of the house. They were burned beyond recognition. Identity was established on the basis that they were the only four missing of fourteen persons in the house. The fire is thought to have been caused from an explosion in the furnace.

### COAL SHORTAGE HITS STRIKEBOUND PRAIRIE TOWN

ESTAVAN, Sask. (CP)—A critical coal shortage in this town near the strikebound south Saskatchewan lignite coal fields drew action Tuesday from civic officials.

Government, union and representatives of the operators are trying to settle the strike which started November 3 when 200 United Mine Workers of America walked out of seven company workings.

Coal dealers Tuesday were told that the town would handle the distribution of coal, but that persons might apply to the dealers. Those giving coal to persons not in need would face legal action by the town.

### FOOD DOLLAR GOES FURTHER THAN IN 1913

OTTAWA (CP)—An hour's wages buy 60 per cent more food today than in 1913, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture said Tuesday in a report to the Prices Commission.

The brief said that the average hourly wage now buys almost as much food as in 1939 and added that the public became so used to buying food at depressed prices that natural re-adjustment was a jolt.

### COCOA TREE DISEASE

ACCRA, Gold Coast, (CP)—Britain has appointed an international commission of three scientists to visit the Gold Coast and report on the swollen shoot disease of cocoa trees. One of the members will report whether there is an alternative to the present drastic costly method of cutting down infected trees. Dr. G. Berkeley, a Canadian, is a member of the commission.

### TODAY'S STOCKS

(Courtesy S. D. Johnston Co. Ltd.)

#### Vancouver

Bayonne	04 1/2
Bratton	7.50
B. R. Con.	02
R. R. X.	08 1/2
Cariboo Quartz	1.10
Pend Oreille	5.55
Pioneer	1.10
Premier Border	03
Privateer	14
Reeves McDonald	2.80
Reno	05
Sheep Creek	1.55
Silbak Premier	35
Taku River	25
Vananda (ask)	49
Salmon Gold	10 1/2
Spud Valley	05

#### Oils

Anglo Canadian	4.05
A. P. Con.	22
Atlantic	38
Calmont	46
C. & E.	5.80
Central Leduc	1.55
Home	12.65
Mercury	20
Okalta	1.55
Pacific Pete	2.65
Princess	33
Royal Canadian	10
South Brazeau	18

#### Toronto

Consol. Smelters	127.50
Conwest	1.25
Donalda	50
Eldon	68
East Sullivan	3.00
Giant Yellowknife	4.65
God's Lake	37
Hardrock	20
Harricana	08
Heva	09 1/2
Hosco	16
Jackknife	04 1/4
Joliet Quebec	40
Lake Rowan	06
Lapaska	07 1/4
Little Long Lac	71
Lynx	13
Madsen Red Lake	2.30
McKenzie Red Lake	32
McLeod Cockshutt	81
Moneta	40
Negus	2.10
Noranda	54.50
Louvicourt	36
Pickle Crow	2.07
Regcourt	05 1/2
San Antonio	3.70
Senator Rouyn	39 1/2
Sherrit Gordon	1.98
Steep Rock	1.62
Sturgeon River	12 1/2
Silver Miller	32

### HOCKEY SCORES

Pacific Coast League  
Portland 4, Vancouver 2.  
New Westminster 6, Tacoma 2.  
Fresno 3, Oakland 1.

### LOCAL TIDES

Thursday, December 16, 1948	
High	1:30 18.7 feet
	13:04 22.0 feet
Low	7:01 8.4 feet
	19:50 2.0 feet

### SPEEDY TRANSMISSION

A four by six telephoto picture can be transmitted in about two minutes.

### FIRE DESTROYS VANCOUVER MILL

VANCOUVER—Crystal Sash and Door Co.'s plant at Victoria Drive and Franklin was destroyed with \$100,000 loss in a spectacular east-end waterfront fire early last evening. Four departments were engaged fighting the conflagration which was visible for five miles.

For a time a whole city block was threatened. Two neighboring plants were damaged. Several nearby homes caught fire. One was destroyed, seriously damaged but others were saved. Ten persons are homeless.

### SAYS RUSSIANS KNEW ABOUT NORDEN SIGHT

OTTAWA (CP)—A member of the House un-American activities committee said today that the committee has a report that detailed information on the Norden bomb sight leaked out to Russian representatives as early as 1938.

At that time, the Norden bomb sight was one of the United States' greatest military secrets. He did not disclose the source of Russian information. Wartime experience found that although the Norden sight was not as accurate as it was claimed in the pre-war days, it was, nevertheless, the most accurate apparatus of its kind used during the conflict.



QUICK-DRYING  
The use of infra-red heating has been developed in Britain to reduce the time for drying adhesives and paint to one or two minutes.

MONTREAL FLOOD—Civic engineering officials fearing a cave-in were forced to divert traffic Thursday from a wide section of the downtown business area following a break in the water main last Wednesday. A year ago the area of St. James and Little Craig streets shown here was packed with snow but when this photo was taken the water was several inches deep. Cars were still being allowed in this area at this time. (C. P. Photo)

### eds In Peiping

Brazier said the C.P.R. is not against Quitting. Unofficial reports today said that the Communists had entered Peiping but did not have sufficient strength yet to complete capture of the city. Kai-Shek's military recommendations to his closest advisers that he should control of China's fate were temporarily. The general, however, showed no intention that he would retire. His associates suggested that the only direct salvation for Nationalist China was to step down and let the Communists take over, probably through negotiations with the Communists.

### ERIOR FAMILY IS TURNED OUT

A family of eight were left homeless Sunday night when a fire destroyed their home at 278 miles east of Prince Rupert, forcing them to flee in night attire in sub-zero weather. They were Mr. and Mrs. Terman and their six children who lost all their effects in the fire, which started in the kitchen, ravaged their house and tiny sawmill settlement on the railway line. They are now being sheltered by neighbors while relatives in Prince Rupert district are bringing clothing for the children and equipment for a new home. Mrs. Anna Johnson, 417 1/2 Place, Prince Rupert, is wife of Mrs. Byman. Johnson said that she was glad to receive articles of clothing and household effects to aid in the re-establishment of the Byman home which had been renovated. They lost everything, except night clothes they were wearing when they rushed from their home, Mrs. Johnson said. Byman is a sawmill worker. The children range from three to 13. The temperature when the fire broke out was 36 below.

### ED \$10 ON IMAGE CHARGE

Dixon was fined \$10 after he pleaded guilty to charge of doing wilful damage to property. He had broken a door of the Empress last night.

### VAL INFANT CHRISTENED

—The baby prince came today may ascend to the throne of Britain was christened by the Archbishop of Canterbury in Buckingham Palace. The 3-day-old first-born son of Princess Elizabeth was named Charles Philip Arthur George of Edinburgh. He was surrounded by members of the royal family, including the Queen, the baby "beamed beautifully" throughout the service. The prince's godparents included the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of York, the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent.

### FOR ASKING PRICE CONTROL

—The Trades Labor Congress of Canada declared the federal government should establish a price control board to rule on price increases before they go into effect. The proposal was made in a brief submitted to the prices commission.