

# Expert Commission Set Up in Holland To Direct Task of Rebuilding Dikes

By DAVID SHEARS

THE HAGUE (Reuters) — The Netherlands, reeling after the worst flood disaster for 400 years, is bucking to the gigantic task of rebuilding shattered sea defences and restoring inundated land to cultivation.

Already, many of the hundreds of dike breaches have been filled and large stretches of devastated countryside reclaimed.

But with every tide, surging sea water still pours unhindered through broad gaps, bringing tons of sand and salt to poison rich agricultural soil, and make the work of closing the gaps more difficult.

An expert commission has been set up to restore the dikes and to make sure, as far as is possible, that such a disaster will never again occur.

Though vast tracts of The Netherlands lie below sea level, the vulnerable south-west, the Rhine-Scheldt delta area comprising the islands, coastline and river banks of Zeeland, South Holland and North Brabant, were the areas most affected.

A plan, drawn up many years ago but pigeon-holed by successive governments, has now come

very much to the fore. It would shorten the much-indented coastline of this delta area by damming off the broad estuary mouths.

Only the new waterway channel leading to Rotterdam, and Antwerp's gateway of the Scheldt, would be left open.

The cost would be, one leading engineer says, 1,000,000,000 guilders (roughly \$280,000,000) "for a start." He calculated that two years would be needed for preliminary study, and perhaps 12 more for the actual work.

But the effect would be to render superfluous hundreds of miles of high upkeep dikes, and end the expensive incursions of salt which continually threatens soil fertility.

## RAISE THREE FEET

The alternative is raising the height of 800 miles of dikes in the affected area by at least three feet. The dikes would have to be kept in constant repair and would not solve the salt problem.

Meanwhile, the non-stop task of plugging the breaches goes on. First step is to lay great willow "mattresses," weighed with rocks, on the sea bed. This is to provide a foundation and stop further erosion.

Then come big concrete caissons or pontoons, something like the concrete caissons used for the harbor built on the Normandy coast for the invasion of German-occupied France. Alternatively, hulks of old ships are sunk in the gaps. Finally, tons of clay and sand, faced perhaps with rocks and asphalt, are piled in to make the broad-based, rounded, grass-covered permanent structure which is an integral and familiar part of the Netherlands landscape.

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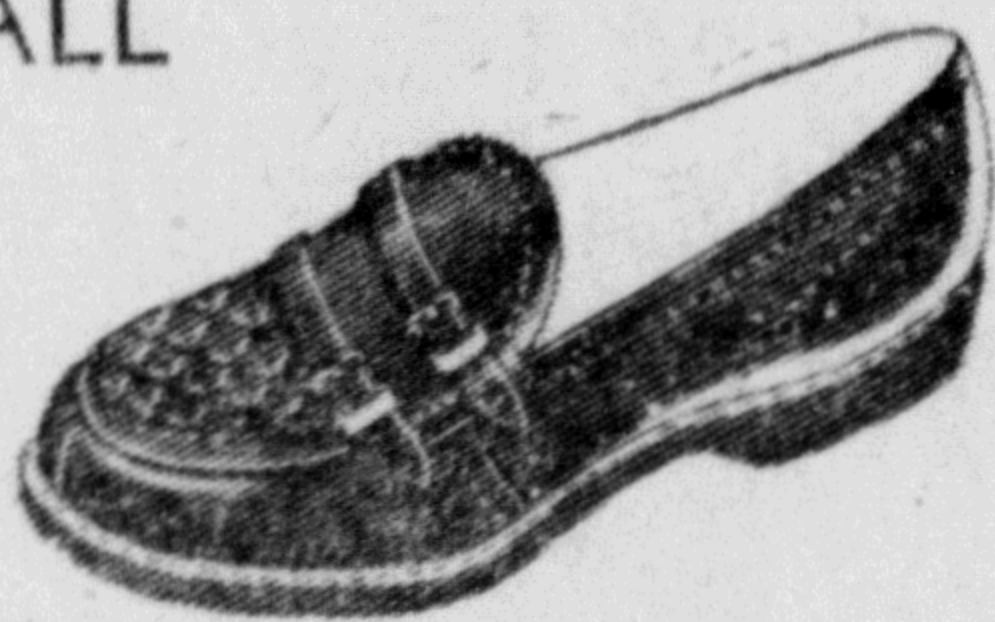
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## 51 Veterans Heading Home From Germany

OTTAWA — Fifty-one veterans of Canada's 27th Infantry Brigade Group will begin their homeward trek this week after serving a one-year tour of duty in Hannover, Germany.

The group, representing every province in the country, will board trains at Hannover Thursday, bound for a channel-crossing to Southampton. The following day they will sail for home aboard the liner Scythia.

The draft will be commanded by Maj. A. M. Stirton, MBE, Edmonton, and is scheduled to reach Halifax March 28.

Included in the home-coming draft are two from British Columbia, six from Alberta, one from Saskatchewan, three from Manitoba, 22 from Ontario, five from Quebec, two from New Brunswick, eight from Nova Scotia and one each from the provinces of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.



## Gold Theft Suspects Released

TORONTO — Hope that the solution of last September's \$214,000 gold robbery mystery was in sight faded today.

Earlier police in Vancouver announced that, on the strength of "wanted" posters, they were holding two Toronto men for questioning in connection with the gold theft at nearby Malton. They identified them as William Kenneth Pinkey and Leonard Gordon Sisco, both 21.

After investigation, they said Sisco has been cleared of any connection with the gold robbery. They also said Pinkey is not being held on the gold charge.

The earlier reports from Vancouver puzzled RCMP officials in Toronto, who said they distributed no pictures after the robbery.

Inspector Butler of the RCMP in Toronto said the RCMP interrogated hundreds of suspects after the robbery, but as far as he knew, Sisco or Pinkey were not among those questioned.

Vancouver police said they picked up the pair on a routine check of cars bearing Ontario plates after an Ontario auto was reported stolen.

Prowl car officer Pat Bowe said he thought he recognized Sisco from pictures distributed in connection with the gold robbery.

The Malton airport gold robbery has baffled police. The six gold bars destined for Swiss and British banks vanished from a Trans-Canada Air Lines Toronto-Montreal shipment Sept. 25. A \$13,000 reward was posted.

The theft was not discovered until the cargo reached Montreal, giving the thieves a half-day start. Police believe the gold was taken across the border and sold in the United States.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE



David Wayne is doing the strumming and Mitzi Gaynor (as Eva Tanguay) the listening in "The I Don't Care Girl," Twentieth Century-Fox Technicolor musical based on the life and era of the celebrated Miss Tanguay. Oscar Levant also stars in the film, opening Thursday at the Totem Theatre. George Jessel produced and Lloyd Bacon directed Walter Bullock's "I Don't Care Girl" screenplay.

## CPR Seeks 'Workable' Freight Rate Structure in Canada

VICTORIA — The Canadian Pacific Railway favors and supports the principle of equalization of freight rates, K. D. M. Spence, counsel for the company, told the Board of Transport Commissioners at Victoria.

The board began hearings at the capital on the matter of "equalization" of the Canadian freight rate structure.

The board will sit at Vancouver later this week, working gradually east on a tour that will take to all major centres.

In placing his company's position before the board, Mr. Spence said equalization applied where reasonably possible, without major disturbance to the economy of Canada, would be beneficial to the nation.

However, where equalization would do more harm than good the Canadian Pacific would advocate a departure from strict equalization.

He emphasized that the company was not looking for either an increase or a decrease in its revenues through equalization.

"It is the company's sole objective in taking part in the present hearings to assist the board in devising a simplified and workable rate structure for Canada that will be fair to all parties," Mr. Spence said.

He submitted that when the pattern of equalization has finally been felt, the level at which the "equalized rates" are to be applied should be given "most careful study" on the basis of preliminary tests.

The new uniform scale of mileage class rates proposed by the board would cause a loss in revenue to his company of more than \$4,000,000, said Mr. Spence.

He said, in some circumstances freight rates should be shaped to suit the economy, rather than that the economy, which is far from uniform across Canada, should be strained by application of too rigid a pattern of equalization, he told the board.

The board of transport commissioners was told that British Columbia motorists are being "signed to death" by an ever-increasing number of highway traffic signs.

Nell MacCallum, chief engineer of public works, was the only witness at a brief session of the board on the problem of highway-railroad crossings.

He told of the increasing number of highway traffic signs and said there was need for a more conspicuous type of sign for railroad crossings.

Because of so many roadside signs, he said, railroad crossings could be distinctly denoted by a sign suspended over the centre of the highway, perhaps about 1,000 feet ahead of the crossing.

Mr. MacCallum said, however, that the problem of railroad crossings is "fairly well" under control in B.C. The problem is not as serious as in Eastern Canada because B.C. highway traffic is "comparatively light" on the outstanding judgment.

## SCREEN FLASHES

Oscar Levant says that his new movie, "The I Don't Care Girl," Twentieth Century-Fox Technicolor musical starring Mitzi Gaynor as Eva Tanguay, David Wayne and Levant opening tomorrow at the Totem Theatre proves at the very least that his talents are diversified.

He contributes his usual sardonic wit, a sprinkling of romance, narration for part of the film, a sample of his piano magic, and a brief dance specialty.

The latter, which is a simple off-to-Buffalo thing but his first screen dancing, prompts his remark, "My rhythm is in my hands, not my feet." A composer, author and radio panelist as well as distinguished concert pianist and screen comedian, Levant prides himself on having "the social grace of a gorilla," to quote a past comment on the man.

Levant has been canny enough to help further the public representation of him as a comic boor, which only serves as an attention-getting front for a genuine talent, last expressed in "An American in Paris" and "O. Henry's Full House" and now on view in "The I Don't Care Girl." Playwright-friend S. N. Behrman summed Oscar up best: "He's a character was, if he did not exist, could not be imagined."

## Police Sergeant Fails to Stop Garnishee Order

VICTORIA — City police Sergeant Thomas Stevenson Tuesday failed in a bid to prevent the Supreme Court from paying out to Kenneth E. Easton \$298.10 which was garnished from his police wages during the first two months of this year.

Easton is creditor in a judgment brought against Stevenson in 1951, requiring him to pay \$12,414.35 as damages for injuries suffered by Murray Easton, an infant, who was struck by Stevenson's car October 24, 1949.

A garnishee order approved by the court took \$199.05 from Stevenson's city pay cheque in both January and February.

In Supreme Court chambers, Alan Beesley, solicitor for Mr. Easton, father of the child, applied to have the court pay the money to the judgment creditor.

Mr. Justice J. V. Cline gave his consent, after hearing Sergeant Stevenson's protest.

The sergeant, who appeared in person, said that the \$199.05 taken from his two pay cheques had left him with only \$60 a month.

He said he could not carry on with such little money.

He said he had offered to provide \$25 a month to the judgment creditor but said this offer had been rejected.

Mr. Beesley said the offer was turned down because \$25 a month represented only half the interest rate which the court has allowed on the outstanding judgment.

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