

Scientists Find Nothing to Back Claim Smoking Causes Cancer

By W. R. WHEATLEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer
MONTREAL — The president of Canada's biggest tobacco company says exhaustive research is more in the public interest than scarce publicity, in determining any relationship between smoking and lung cancer. "Regardless of the merits of claims either way, any suggestion that a product is related to ill health does scare people," E. C. Wood of Imperial Tobacco Company said in an interview. "We have had in the past widespread scares that a certain vegetable became poisoned through canning and that use of a certain type of metal pot or pan in cooking foods engendered poisoning. The claims were established scientifically."

CLOSER DIAGNOSIS
"I don't mean to imply categorically that there can be no relationship whatever between smoking and lung cancer. But so far the reported increase in lung cancer cases has been statistical rather than clinical. "Medical science has advanced tremendously in diagnosis, and cases established as lung cancer today were undoubtedly labelled something else a comparatively few years ago. Also, science now is giving closer study to lung cancer in relation to occupational diseases and to the increasing air pollution of our fast-growing industrial areas."

Mr. Wood said his company is taking no particular counter-measures to combat current claims. There had been no effect on its sales. Publicity given the question had not brought any inquiry to the company from the public. "We don't feel that propaganda is the right thing and we are not doing any window-dressing as an offsetting measure," he said. "We are not doctors and it would be pointless for us to get involved in propaganda which might only serve to establish a basis of suspicion."

"But we do co-operate and keep in touch with medical and scientific organizations. Our own laboratories are continually studying all phases of tobacco itself as well as its growth and preparation."



A NEW FIVE-CENT STAMP with the Queen's portrait will be issued by the post office department April 1. The stamp was engraved from a photograph supplied by Dorothy Wilding of London. Blue in color, it will replace the current design from a photograph by Yousuf Karsh of Ottawa. The other three stamps, showing Canadian wildlife, will also be issued at the same time. The 15-cent black stamp shows a gannet in flight against a night sky; the grey four-cent stamp shows a walrus; and a blue five-cent stamp shows a beaver. The walrus and beaver stamps are short-term commemorative stamps.

Blood Transfusion Service Operates 24 Hours Per Day

Ninety thousand miles was chalked up by the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service transport department last year. And it wasn't all clear sailing. Take the driver on her way from a clinic at Prince Rupert in the middle of winter. She took 19 hours to drive 100 miles through conditions none would drive through normally, but she had to because her truck was loaded with blood which had to get to the laboratory in Vancouver. "We take the roads as they come," says Mabel Erickson, head of the transport department who is on her seventh year in the service. She can tell many hair-raising stories about her staff of eight. How would you like to sit up all night in a big refrigerator truck loaded with blood waiting for help on a lonely snow-bound road? No ordinary person would but the girls who drive the blood trucks are dedicated to a life-saving job. They drive as far north as Prince George and they fly into the rough and ready places like Kamano.

NO ACCIDENTS
They drive through snow storms and floods and if an emergency crops up they are on their own. In seven years of driving they can boast of only the odd crumpled fender. There has been no accident.

The Red Cross blood service operates 24 hours a day and supplies 96 hospitals in British Columbia. From the laboratory on the Shaughnessy Hospital grounds goes all blood to the province. It arrives in Shaughnessy from clinics, is tested and sent out, guaranteed as to blood group.

British Army May Be Given Guided Missiles

LONDON (Reuters)— Britain announced Wednesday her army may soon be equipped with atomic guided missiles for "purposes of offence."

War Minister Antony Head said the army is "nearing a decision" on the introduction of the atomic weapons. Three days ago, Sir Winston Churchill's government announced it is equipping the RAF with atomic bombs from secret stores.

Britain exploded her first atomic weapon off the Australian coast Oct. 3, 1952, and further atomic tests were held on the Woomera rocket range in central Australia last October.

Head, in a statement to Parliament on army estimates for the 1954-55 year, said: "We have given a great deal of thought to the defensive and offensive aspect of the introduction of atomic weapons. Defensively, training has gone ahead in various methods of protection and detection. Radiac (instruments for detection of radioactivity after an atomic explosion) are now in production, and training versions are already in the hands of troops."

"We are nearing a decision on the introduction of an effective army weapon of offence. This will probably take the form of a ground-to-ground, medium-range guided missile."

"All possible steps are being taken to insure that the introduction of atomic weapons will find the army well prepared in the offensive use and in methods of defence."

He said a three-day indoor exercise held near London last August and attended by representatives of all Commonwealth countries made "a close study of the problems of supply, communication and movement under atomic attack and also of the tactical and strategic use of atomic weapons."

Canada Club

LONDON (CP) — Lord Strathcona 61, former Conservative member of Parliament, has joined the committee of the Canada Club, an Anglo-Canadian association formed in 1910. The club is sometimes called the second oldest Canadian institution in London after the Hudson's Bay Company, founded in 1670.

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Body Believed Crew Member From Tugboat

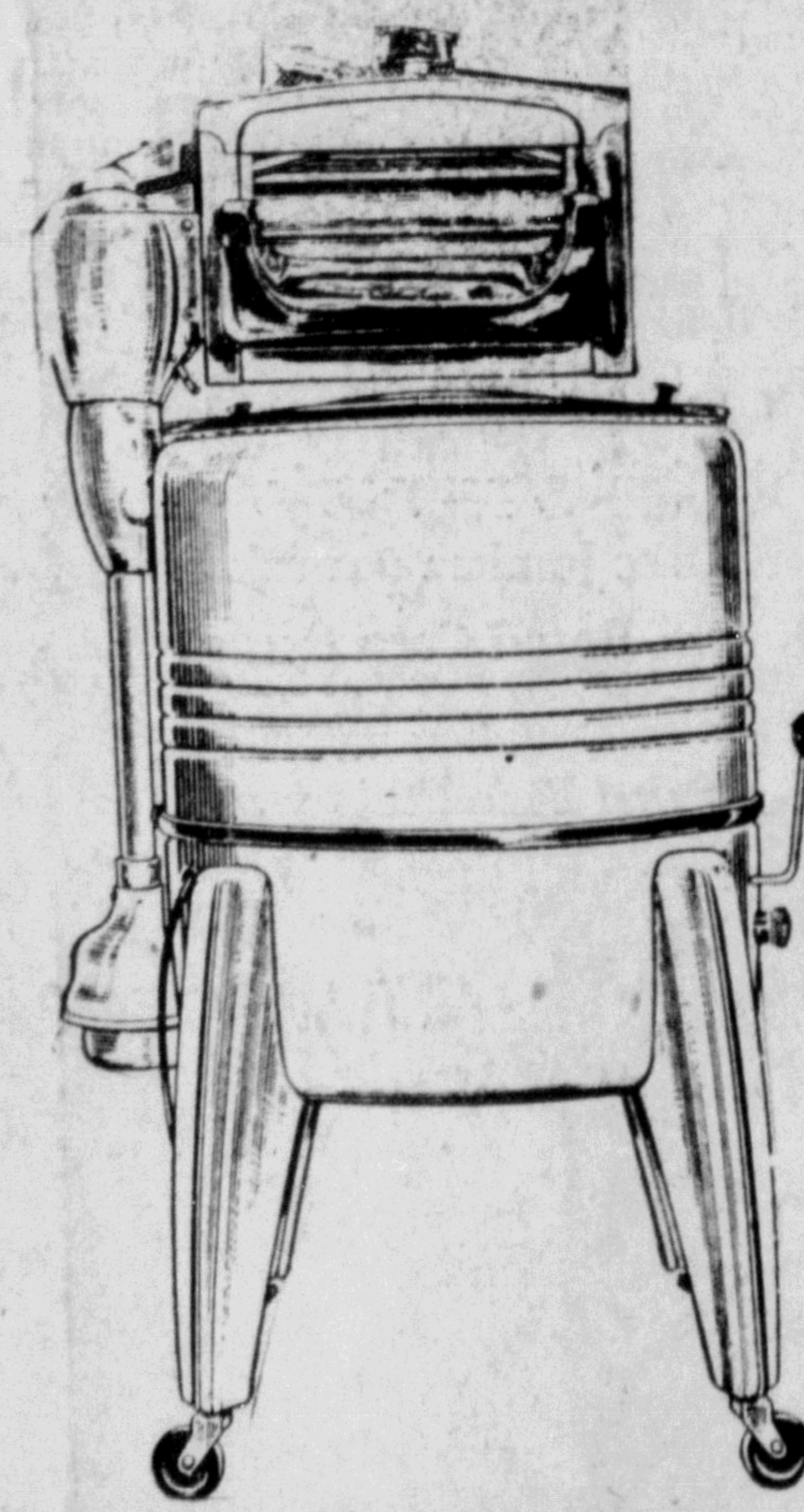
CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C. (CP) — The nude body of an elderly man, believed a crew member from the tug C. P. Yorke which sank last December, was washed ashore Tuesday near the south tip of Quadra Island, 120 miles northwest of Vancouver.

The body was found by George Johnson of Cape Mudge who was searching the shore for driftwood. RCMP brought the body here where it will be examined by a coroner.

Only two of the Yorke's seven-man crew were picked up alive after the tug was run down by its tow during a gale. Four other bodies were found.

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