



**Takes Over From Empress**

## French Liner Replaces Empress of Canada

French liner de Grasse, a 20,000-ton ship, will replace the Empress of Canada on the Liverpool-Montreal run. The Empress burned at her Liverpool berth January 25.

Announcement was made in London and Montreal that the 20,000-ton de Grasse will replace the Empress of Canada on the Liverpool-Montreal run. The Empress burned at her Liverpool berth January 25.

Canadian Pacific officials said the de Grasse should be able to take care of passengers who had booked sailings on the Empress of Canada. Many who booked on early eastbound sailing planned to be in England for Coronation week early in June.

The de Grasse, with accommodation for 358 first-class and 355 tourist passengers, is scheduled to leave Liverpool April 28 for her first trip to Montreal. She then joins the Empress of France and the Empress of Scotland on regular runs between the two ports.

The Empress of Canada's first sailing was scheduled for April 7 from Liverpool, and the return trip April 17 from Montreal. Bookings for these dates are expected to be transferred to the other Canadian Pacific ships and to other lines.

When the de Grasse makes her first trip she will have her masts cut, as were those of the Empress of Scotland, so she can clear the Quebec bridge and power lines across the St. Lawrence there and the Jacques Cartier bridge at Montreal.

The de Grasse, which has seen long service in the Atlantic and on cruise routes, was built at Birkenhead, England, in 1924. During the war she was at anchor in a French river when her crew, fearing the Germans would seize her, opened the sea cocks and sent her to the bottom. She was refloated after the war and completely reconditioned in 1947 to go back into the Le Havre-New York service.

Connecting with another ferry slip at Ward's Cove, Alaska, a short distance from Ketchikan, the water link also is to provide the means for shipping manufactured pulp from the northern city to its U.S. destination.

No word, however, has been received here when shipments are to begin from this point north.

Completion of the slip here had been urged for "as soon as possible" and officials have stated that plans are under way to have heavy equipment for construction of Aluminum Company of Canada's \$500,000 projects at Kitimat and Kemano shipped from eastern Canada through this port.

It has been argued that such a plan would save "thousands of dollars" in shipping costs while the Terrace-Kitimat rail link is under construction.

Distances by rail from eastern Canada to Prince Rupert and Vancouver are similar, while from Vancouver to Kemano is more than a 400-mile water-haul compared to a 100-mile haul from this port.

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# 'Sunshine Budget' Cuts Taxes; Reaction To Repeals Is Mixed

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

By The Canadian Press

OTTAWA—Highlights of Finance Minister Abbott's budget speech:

Personal income tax cut by 11 per cent starting July 1, reduction averaging 5½ per cent for 1953.

Cigarette tax reduced by four cents per pack of 20, effective immediately.

Corporation taxes reduced by estimated \$120,000,000 a year, effective on 1953 earnings.

Annual \$2.50 licence fee on radio sets repealed March 31. No licence fee planned for television sets.

Publicly-owned CBC to be given, in place of licence fees, revenue collected from 15 per cent tax on radios, television sets and tubes.

Duty-free entry to Canada of TV sets bought by visitors to the United States to be stopped immediately.

Stamp tax on cheques and similar documents repealed immediately.

Sales tax of 10 per cent repealed on books and materials going into books effective immediately.

Sales tax repealed on all materials—including newspaper—used exclusively in newspaper and magazine production, effective immediately.

Four per cent "floor" on tax-deductible medical expenses lowered to three per cent, effective on 1953 tax.

Taxpayers' exemptions widened for dependents' earnings and children attending university, effective on 1953 tax.

Deduction from taxable income of 10 per cent of Canadian company dividends increased to 20 per cent, effective on 1953 tax.

Sales tax removed from materials used in producing tax-exempt food products, effective immediately.

Surplus for 1953-54 expected to be \$11,000,000 compared with \$48,000,000 in 1952-53.

Revenues estimated at record \$4,473,000,000 compared with \$4,375,000,000 in 1952-53. Expenditures \$4,462,000,000 compared with \$4,372,000,000.

Corporations subject to seven per cent tax in Quebec given deduction of this amount, up from present five, effective 1953.

Tax concessions extended for petroleum, natural gas and mining companies.

No change in two per cent old age security tax; no change in special luxury tax of 15 per cent.

Tariff reductions amounting to about \$1,000,000 a year, to help the miner, fisherman and soldier with foreign service.

**Hospital Plan Under Study**

VICTORIA —The B.C. government may exempt persons in low income brackets from payment of hospital insurance premiums.

A new formula instituting a system of exemptions is expected to be completed next month, it was learned Wednesday.

The government also is considering another method of attracting delinquents into the plan. Complete abolition of arrears and a fresh start for everybody is the proposal now being studied.

**Liberals Anticipate Lively Meeting at Centre Tonight**

A lively political meeting is anticipated here tonight when Liberals gather at the Civic Centre for their district convention.

Questions on three leading controversial issues have been drafted out of which the Liberals hope to hammer resolutions that they can present to the provincial convention at Vancouver.

The questions are:

● Is the recent liquor committee's report discriminatory to certain groups?



MRS. JO WILDE, 27-year-old blue-eyed blonde, became the first woman in the 151-year history of Ontario parliaments to record the proceedings of the legislature for Hansard. Premier Frost said she probably is the first woman in Canada to occupy the position. A shorthand reporter for 10 years, Mrs. Wilde covered courts in Toronto and Hamilton before joining the Hansard staff.

## Two Jailed For Theft From Salesman's Car

One man was sentenced to six months in prison and another to seven days from date of conviction on charges of theft from a travelling salesman's car here Feb. 9 before Magistrate Walter D. Vance in police court today.

Albert Laverne Dobbins, 43, who pleaded guilty, got the six-month term in Oakalla and upon release faces possible deportation to his native U.S.

Magistrate Vance first lectured Angus Buchanan McPhail on the evils of drinking before passing a seven-day sentence which ends Feb. 24. McPhail was convicted last Tuesday of taking part in the theft of about \$100 worth of crockery and glassware from a car belonging to Ernest Nerlich, a Toronto salesman.

Magistrate Vance told McPhail that "your trouble as I can see it is liquor. You should do something quick or you will be dragged down. Join the AAs or get some other help."

**ASKS LIGHT SENTENCE**

Doug Hogarth, counsel for both accused, asked for a light sentence for Dobbins and a suspended sentence for McPhail.

Mr. Hogarth told court that McPhail in his 42 years had not been in trouble before. A former air force officer, he had also been in the service of the customs and excise department and "has served the public honestly."

Defence counsel called the theft with which McPhail was charged "an escapee under the influence of liquor which has landed him in a catastrophe."

Mr. Hogarth suggested a suspended sentence but said that crown counsel would not agree because it was not recommended by the police.

**EQUAL RIGHTS**

VICTORIA —A bill which would provide equal pay for men and women for equal work was introduced in the British Columbia legislature Thursday.

There with unanimity of thought behind them.

Mr. Youngs said the association already has approved a resolution asking that the provincial convention charge registration fees out of which transportation expenses will be provided for delegates from outside points.

Prince Rupert is entitled to send 50 delegates to Vancouver.

At the meeting tonight the election of officers for this year also will be held.

## Cigarettes Down Four Cents Per Pack

By The Canadian Press

OTTAWA.—Finance Minister Abbott Thursday night took a delayed action cut at income tax, eliminated the radio licence fee and ushered back the 36-cent pack of cigarettes in what is generally believed to be a pre-election budget.

The minister reduced straight personal income tax by an average 11 per cent starting July 1. This means reduction of half that for the taxpayer on the non-security part of his tax this year. The two per cent Social Security tax was not touched.

The tax on cigarettes was reduced by four cents on a pack of 20, effective immediately.

The \$2.50-yearly radio licence fee is removed after March 31, and Mr. Abbott announced there will be no licence fee for television sets.

Corporation taxes—apart again from the Social Security tax—were cut by six per cent for big companies and 10 per cent for small ones, and the small-company group was enlarged, effective on 1953 profits.

**CHEQUE TAX ENDS**  
The "nuisance" stamp tax on cheques and similar documents is repealed, effective immediately.

The "floor" on medical expenses deductible from personal taxable income was lowered to three per cent of the taxable income, from the present four per cent, on 1953 income.

Personal tax exemptions were broadened for persons with children in college and with dependents earning money.

A 10 per cent sales tax on books was listed, effective immediately, and so was the same tax on all materials going into the finished product of newspapers and magazines.

**LAST BUDGET**  
In his eighth and likely last budget, Mr. Abbott did not knife into taxes quite as deeply as in the pre-election "sunshine" budget of 1949.

The delayed effect of the personal income tax cuts appeared to lend some strength to the idea of a fall, rather than spring, election this year to let the reductions take hold.

Budgeting for an \$11,000,000 surplus for 1953-54, against an estimated \$48,000,000 in the current year, Mr. Abbott calculated that he lopped \$237,000,000 off federal 1953-54 revenues. After that, the amount would be \$361,000,000 a year.

In 1949, he made an immediate \$322,000,000 a year slash.

Expenditures for the coming year were estimated at a record peacetime high of \$4,462,000,000 and revenues at a record \$4,473,000,000.

**HELPS FISHERMEN**

The CBC is to be financed through revenue collected from the current 15 per cent excise tax on radios, television sets and tubes, now imposed at the manufacturers' level.

The budget contained no changes in succession duties. Tariff reductions amounting to about \$1,000,000 are proposed to help miners, fishermen and soldiers returning home after years abroad.

While the tax cuts were spread around fairly widely, they did not touch the 15 per cent excise tax on "luxury" items and made no change in the sales tax rate of 10 per cent, with only a few items lifted out from the sale tax category.

Taxpayers will be allowed a deduction from taxable income of 20 per cent of their dividends from taxable Canadian companies. They now are allowed only 10 per cent.

**Currie Report Thief Jailed**

MONTREAL —Frederick Hensler was convicted today of theft of the advance copy of the controversial Currie report and sentenced to one month in jail.

Dead is Edmund Reinholdt Rustin Dummer, 47. No further information was immediately available. An inquiry is being held.

## Taxpayers Encouraged Says CMA

TORONTO (CP)—The president of the Canadian Manufacturers Association says corporation and income tax reductions announced by Mr. Abbott "will encourage taxpayers to add to their savings and expand their enterprises."

G. K. Shields said manufacturers will appreciate the "further step in the direction of eliminating double taxation of corporation earnings."

But consumers would regret the "discrimination" of retaining excise taxes on many products.

Reaction to other phases of the budget were mixed.

Cigarette manufacturers welcomed the four-cent cut in duty, but tobacco growers said it wasn't enough.

Book publishers, booksellers and authors generally were pleased at the repeal of the 10-per-cent sales tax on books and materials going into books, but candy manufacturers were disappointed that the budget contained no tax relief for that industry. It has pressed repeatedly for removal of the special excise tax of 15 per cent on confectionery.

The automobile industry also was disappointed. There was no tax relief in that field.

Some labor men also were sour. Murray Cotterill, president of the Toronto Labor Council, was critical of reductions in the corporation tax field. He thought, too, that reduction of the medical-expense "floor" wasn't enough.

**Pro-Cons See 'Little' Aid For Workers**

OTTAWA —J. M. MacDonald, financial critic for the Progressive Conservative opposition, said Mr. Abbott's budget will give "precious little" to Canadians in lower income brackets.

The budget showed the government had turned a full cycle, tax reductions had once again been reached "which of course means election year."

It was a "cat and mouse" game. Every once in a while the "mouse is given a little cheese to fatten him up for more extractions by way of taxes in the year following."

**Falling Tree Kills Man**

RCMP here have been advised that a man was killed yesterday afternoon at Bella Coola when a tree being felled struck him on the head.

Dead is Edmund Reinholdt Rustin Dummer, 47. No further information was immediately available. An inquiry is being held.

## 2000 Attend 1953 Show of New GM Automobiles

An estimated 2,000 persons attended the Frizzell Motor automobile show last night in the auditorium of the Civic Centre.

It was the first unveiling here of 1953 models of the most popular General Motors Corporation cars. Displayed amid decorations were four Pontiacs and four Chevrolets.

As the doors opened at 7:30 p.m., a rush of visitors surged into the display room, decorated with streamers of miniature poles and flowers. In the centre of the floor was a huge pole.

Door prizes given away included a car transformer, a spot-lamp, an air-filled cushion, shade vents, a windshield washer, and ornament and special interior auto ornaments.

A total of 500 perfume bottles were distributed among the guests.

Doug Frizzell, proprietor, received visitors at the door.

## WEATHER

### Forecast

North Coast Region: Cloudy Saturday. Clear periods over the Charlottes and occasionally along the mainland today. A few showers. Little change in temperature.

Winds light today except northwest 20 in exposed western waters today. Winds south 15 tonight and tomorrow. Low tonight and high Saturday at Port Hardy, Sandspit and Prince Rupert, 35 and 45.