

B.C. Seeks Permission To Hike Phone Tax Rate

VICTORIA (CP)—British Columbia is asking Ottawa to raise the ceiling on the tax rate which the provincial government and its municipalities may impose on telephone companies.

Immigration Quota Cut By Aussies

CANBERRA (Reuters)—Australia has cut its immigration quota to 40,000 for the next six months because of the current economic slump. Immigration Minister Harold Holt announced.

Last year's Australian immigration quota was 150,000.

Since 1949 thousands of Britons and other Europeans have been brought here under an assistance plan by which the Australian government pays all but 11¢ of their fare, lets them live in hostels until settled and helps them find jobs.

From now on this plan will apply only to immigrants who have relatives or friends to vouch for them in Australia.

The minister said the government plans to put the reduced immigration program into effect for six months "until we see how our economy is progressing."

Holt said Australia's economic crisis last year was as grave as that of the 1930s, with a 20 per cent drop in export income being reflected throughout the whole economy.

Voters' List Streamlined By Socreds

VICTORIA (CP)—A change in the provincial Elections Act to streamline the procedure for cleaning out deadwood in the voters' list has been made by a cabinet order.

Voters who fail to exercise their franchise and who fail to respond to notices sent out by the government will be considered to have left their electoral districts and their names will be knocked off the district voters' list.

The act formerly provided for the names of voters who had left their ridings to be removed from the lists, but gave officials no way of determining whether the voters actually had moved away.

The new order provides that the return of an undelivered notice from the electoral officer will be sufficient proof.

Special Fund For Relief Transferred

VICTORIA (CP)—The great depression is officially over, the provincial cabinet has decreed.

The government, in going through financial records recently, found \$290,962.50 in a special fund, part of unemployment relief acts passed in the '30s.

The money has been transferred to the consolidated sinking fund and will be used to help pay the province's outstanding debts as they come due.

Said a cabinet statement: "The purpose for which these moneys were borrowed no longer exists."

SPORTSMAN'S DIGEST

HOW TO MAKE AN ELK BUGLE CALL

CUT A SECTION OF BAMBOO WITH AN INSIDE DIAMETER OF 3/8" TO 3/4". CUTS (A) AND (B) MAKES A TUBE OPEN AT TOP AND CLOSED AT BOTTOM BY A NOSE; 6" TO 7" LONG.

CUT A NOTCH 3/4" FROM DIAGONAL OPEN END CUT, ABOUT 1/2 THROUGH THE TUBE.

PLUG IN PLUG MAKE A SOFT WOODEN PLUG TO FIT IN MOUTH END, EVEN WITH NOTCH.

CAREFULLY SHAVE A BIT OFF THE TOP OF THE PLUG AND REPLACE TO TRY FOR SOUND UNTIL PROPER TONES ARE MADE.

GENTLE FOR LOW NOTES AND STRONG FOR HIGH NOTES, RANGING FROM MIDDLE C TO C TWO OCTAVES ABOVE, THEN E AND C. AN OCTAVE ABOVE, ADD 2 GRINDS!

But Premier W.A.C. Bennett said this does not mean the government is planning to implement any tax increase.

He said the province is merely taking advantage of a clause in its tax-rental agreement with the federal government to ensure that no other province gets a better deal.

In British Columbia, the province and the municipalities can tax public utilities in two different ways.

One way, which is used by most municipalities, is a tax on power lines, telephone poles and other equipment and property of the companies.

The second method is a tax of not more than three per cent on the companies' gross revenues.

In Ontario, many municipalities use the second method, but in that province the tax on telephone companies can be as high as four per cent of revenues.

Ontario recently signed a tax agreement with Ottawa. This agreement is similar to that which B.C. and eight other provinces signed last summer. However, the Ontario agreement specifies that the existing rate of taxation on telephone companies be maintained, without reducing Ottawa's "rental" payments to the province.

B.C. now is asking Ottawa, under the terms of its contract, to amend B.C.'s agreement to bring it into line with Ontario's.

This would give the province and any municipalities which use the tax-on-revenues system a higher maximum rate applicable to telephone companies. The rate for electric light and power, gas, bus and street-car companies would stay at three per cent.

CPA Plans Cut In Fares For Immigrants

VANCOUVER (CP)—A reduction of more than 30 per cent in fares for immigrant travel between the Orient and North America is planned by Canadian Pacific Airlines.

H. B. Main, CPA general traffic manager, said the plan "now awaits final approval by the governments concerned" with the reductions scheduled to start April 1.

Under the reductions the one-way fare from Hong Kong to either Vancouver, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco or Los Angeles will be \$500 instead of the present \$726.

The fare from Tokyo to any of these points would be reduced from \$650 to \$450.

A CPA spokesman said the special rate will be good for only one-way travel from the Orient and will be restricted to those classified as immigrants. He estimated an average of 15 persons coming under this classification are being flown weekly to North America via CPA.

Pension Fund Plan Remains

VICTORIA (CP)—The Social Credit government has decided to carry on the practice of allowing permanent government employees who are not members of the civil service to contribute to the government's pension fund, and eventually to draw pension benefits.

The decision applies to several hundred jail guards, game wardens and other non-civil-service employees.

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WINNING THE WESTERN Interprovincial Football Union title can mean a lost job for coaches. Since Calgary Stampede upsets the football world with a 12-7 Grey Cup victory over Ottawa Rough Riders in 1948, four Western title-winning coaches have been given the bounce. The latest is Frank Filchok, whose Edmonton Eskimos lost to Toronto Argonauts in the 1952 Canadian final. In 1951, when Saskatchewan Roughriders lost in the Cup final to Ottawa, coach Harry Smith got the heave-ho. In 1950, Butch Larson coached Winnipeg Blue Bombers to the Western title, then lost to Argonauts and was sent kicking. Coach Les Lear of the Stampede coached Calgary to the 1948 Grey Cup championship and rode the Calgary range until this year.

Ban on Gas Jets Protested By Rooming House Operators

VANCOUVER (CP)—A campaign against a "potential killer" is under way in Vancouver.

It is a battle against gas poisoning and suffocation deaths, most of them in rooming houses using gas plates and obsolete appliances.

A special committee of city council has recommended a ban on all gas cooking appliances in sleeping rooms. Such a ban, it is estimated, would hit at 17,000 gas appliances.

A report to the committee showed 115 gas deaths in 1952. Fifty-six were listed as suicide. Three persons died as the result of suicide bids of others.

Some installations in downtown rooming houses are 40 years old.

"Every appliance in that area is a potential killer," plumbing Inspector Bill Jack told the committee. He described old gas plates as "Frankenstein monsters."

Another suggestion before the committee calls for a stepped-up enforcement campaign aimed at faulty equipment installations.

A safety shut-off device—a valve that cuts off gas within 15 seconds of the flame being extinguished—has been demonstrated by Fred Lade, a Vancouver inventor.

He was advised to submit the device to the American Gas Association laboratory in Los Angeles for testing.

"Why should I have to go to the Americans for approval?" he asked today. "We have testing facilities in Canada."

Apartment and rooming house owners protested the proposed ban on gas plates.

"It is the most absurd thing I've ever heard," said James Ferguson, secretary of the Apartment and Roominghouse Operators' Association.

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Canada Outdoors

Ontario Experts Have Huge Park Area For Field Studies

TORONTO (CP)—Ontario experts have a convenient 2,700-square-mile area for their field studies on how best to conserve the province's wild life and fish population.

Research in natural science is only one of the uses of Algonquin Park, vast forest and game preserve lying east of the Ottawa River on the southern fringe of the Canadian shield. Its northwest corner is some 30 miles south of North Bay.

Established in 1893, the park has four basic purposes: to preserve in Ontario a primeval forest; to protect the head waters of five important rivers; to provide a health resort and recreational area; to provide a refuge and breeding ground for wild life.

GOOD FOR RESEARCH

The park is convenient for research because controlled experiments are possible on a wide scale. For instance, one area of 30 square miles is closed to the public so that specialists can make a complete study of the park mammals.

Research discloses that the deer's homing instinct is stronger than its appetite. Because of shortage of food in some sections of the park, deer have been moved to other areas where food is plentiful. Often they head right back to their old surroundings and starve to death because they can't get enough to eat.

The Ontario government bans hunting in the park. Angling is permitted although many lakes are closed in alternate years because research shows that this helps maintain the fish population.

The park's forest is mainly second growth since most of the area was cut over in the last century.

Protection service is rigid. Park superintendent George H. R. Phillips, a noted bush pilot, makes regular patrols by air to hunt poachers and to watch for forest fires. He is backed by a strong ground protective crew.

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Filchok Signs With Regina

REGINA (CP)—Frank Filchok, who coached the Edmonton Eskimos to western football championship last year, signed Friday to coach Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1953 Western Interprovincial Football Union.



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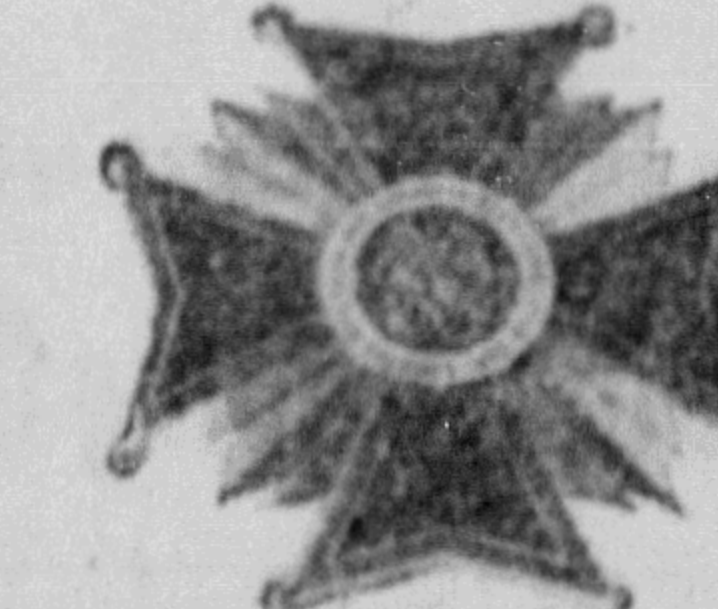
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