



## THREE VESSELS PERISH IN ATLANTIC TEMPEST



BY TRUCK—This is all that was left of the office of bank manager E. J. Fitzgerald of Ottawa after a crashing 20-ton oil truck went out of control and fatally injured him while he was in the office talking to a client. Here a reporter interviews bank teller Fred McCullough, who was standing near the office door when the accident occurred. (CP PHOTO)

### Highway Sixteen to Get Legislative Attention

VICTORIA — The Northern Trans-Provincial Highway from Prince Rupert to Prince George is among public works department construction projects which will be placed before the Legislature at the session which opened today, it was announced in the Speech from the Throne.

### One Hurdle Cleared in Korean Armistice Talks

MUNSAN (Canadian Press) — Negotiators agreed today on the final clause of the Korean armistice but two major hurdles still blocked a truce settlement.

The agreement is to recommend that the belligerent governments hold a high level political conference within 90 days after an armistice to consider "withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea, peaceful settlement of the Korean question, etc."

The agreement was reached in a full dress session. Staff officers were assigned to the job of incorporating the recommendations in the armistice.

### Officer Made Bookie Bets

VANCOUVER (CP)— Detective William J. Butchart of the city gambling squad Monday testified that he had made almost \$200,000 off-the-track bets, seventy-five per cent of them with bookies, during the last twenty-four years.

The "expert on betting" made the statement while being cross-examined at the trial of 26 persons accused of conspiring to keep betting houses.

"I made them illegally, not in the course of duty," he admitted. "You went in representing the law and made bets?" Defence Counsel G. L. Fraser asked. "I didn't represent the police department," the detective answered.

### Reduction in Cigarette Tax Seems Likely

OTTAWA — Ontario tobacco growers Monday asked the Canadian government for a tax cut of about 12c a package on twenty cigarettes. Official quarters indicated later that they may get part but not all of that reduction in the next budget.

Two non-smokers — Finance Minister Douglas Abbott and Francis R. Gregory of Leamington, Ontario — discussed the issue as a delegation of growers gathered to protest what they called an "out-dated and archaic tobacco tax structure in Canada."

Mr. Gregory asked Mr. Abbott to cut the 25.2c a package federal cigarette tax by about half.

As chairman of the Ontario Flu-Cured Tobacco Marketing Association and head of the growers' delegation, Gregory said that this would reduce the retail price to 30c a package from 42c and half the growing cigarette smuggling racket in Canada.

Mr. Abbott issued no statement on the conference. Informants said, however, that it was likely the cigarette tax may be sliced when the 1952-53 budget comes out in April but not as much as the growers want.

The federal cigarette tax was increased by three per cent a package a year ago.

### Shooting at Port Edward

RCMP are investigating a shooting incident which landed a 16-year-old Port Edward girl in hospital last night with a bullet wound in her forearm.

Police said today the juvenile was too hysterical "to make much sense" when questioned last night. In Prince Rupert General Hospital, she is reported in good condition today.

### Grain Ship Now Loading

With lining of the Japanese grain ship Atago Maru completed yesterday noon, wheat has begun to pour into her holds which will be filled with 345,000 bushels before departure.

Some 40,000 feet of lumber was used in lining the steel holds. Work was done by local carpenters and longshoremen under the direction of Capt. Hector Perry, of Canadian Stevedoring Co. Ltd.

Grain loading is expected to be completed tomorrow noon when the vessel will sail for Union Bay to bunker before proceeding to Japan.

### Pay For Holiday

It All Depends On Kind of Agreement

VICTORIA — Whether or not overtime is to be paid for those who worked on the special holiday for the King's funeral last Friday depends on the type of bargaining agreement.

Many workers who are paid by the day or hour will lose a day's pay even if they are covered by union agreements. This is because some union contracts require that employees be paid for only specific holidays such as Christmas, etc. In cases like these, employers need not pay their workers for Friday if they had the day off. Other union contracts say employees must be paid for all special holidays even if they did not work.

Those businesses which did remain open must pay their employees according to their union agreements. If the contract said that overtime must be paid only for specified holidays, workers will be paid only their regular pay for working Friday. If the contract says that overtime is to be paid on all official holidays, the employees get time-and-a-half.

If the firm has no agreement with its employees, it may pay them straight time or overtime as it desires.

### Kemano Getting Big Generator

PETERBOROUGH, Ont.— A generator with the largest capacity ever to be built in Canada is to be constructed at the Kemano power works of the Canadian General Electric Co. for the Kemano power development of the Aluminum Co. of Canada Ltd. It will have a shipping weight of 706 tons.

## Fierce Winter Gale Brings Tragedy to Ships on Atlantic

BOSTON (CP)—Thirty-two seamen were rescued and 56 others were lost or awaiting help after two tankers broke in two late yesterday off Cape Cod in a fierce and sudden storm which claimed at least 25 lives ashore and covered the New England and Canadian Maritimes coast with a deep blanket of snow.

While searching for one tanker, the Fort Mercer, which had reported herself in distress, rescue aircraft unexpectedly sighted another, the Pendleton, which was breaking in two. Seven men are known dead off the two ships and 13 others are unaccounted for.

Quick rescue work by the coastguard resulted in 32 seamen being taken off the stern portion of the Pendleton by means of whalers. One man was lost during this operation. Another eight men, believed to have been on the bow portion when it sank, are supposed to have perished.

Meantime, a more tragic drama of the sea was being enacted as 23 crew members of the Fort Mercer, also with bow and stern broken apart by the force of the gale, are unaccounted for and supposedly lost.

Another ship, the Helen Stevenson, was reported badly damaged by the storm 200 miles north of Bermuda.

The 50-mile northwester caused at least 30 deaths ashore on the New England coast, several of them dying of heart failure from exertion of snow shovelling.

A mantle of nine inches of snow was laid on Nova Scotia. TOW TO BOSTON

The coastguard cutter East Wind moved to the side of the severed stern section of the Fort Mercer in rough seas today and planned to tow the wreck and 33 remaining crew members aboard to Boston.

The captain and another survivor were rescued from the bow section of the Mercer.

A message from the cutter Yakutat, a rescue ship, said that two more survivors were still on the bow but heavy seas prevented their immediate rescue.

Thirty-three men were aboard the drifting stern, about forty miles away.

Meanwhile the stern of the Pendleton floated more than five miles south of Chatham Light. It was believed that no one was still aboard so it was planned to sink the derelict with gunfire.

The Pendleton and the Fort Mercer, apparently, broke up.

at almost the same time yesterday in the winter's worst storm.

One of the survivors of the Pendleton, Douglas B. Potts, 31, said the ship "broke in half all of a sudden."

"I looked out and saw the bow of the boat floating to port," Ray Sybert of Norfolk, Virginia, the Pendleton's chief engineer, said the noise of the vessel breaking up, sounded "like a roar of thunder."

THEIR SHIP BREAKING  
The freighter Helen Stevenson, which has 35 aboard, radioed today that she is in danger of splitting in two about 230 miles northwest of Bermuda.  
A SOS was received from the 7,226-ton vessel by the coastguard, reporting that cracks across the main deck were widening.

Search and rescue planes from Kindley Air Force base at Bermuda were maintaining vigil over the ship.

### -WEATHER-

Synopsis  
Overnight temperatures fell to freezing or below in all sections of the province. In the central interior Prince George was the coldest with a minimum of 24 below while Victoria was the mildest spot with a low of 32 degrees.

Skies were mostly clear with general cloud banks occurring only in the southern interior. Not much change is looked for today or tonight. Some increase in cloudiness in coastal sections is looked for tomorrow as a weakening storm now moving toward Central Alaska moves across the Gulf of Alaska toward the coast. It will remain cold.

Forecast  
North Coast Region—Variable cloudiness along east coast Charlottes today and tonight, otherwise clear. Cloudy tomorrow. A few snow flurries near mid-day tomorrow. Continuing cold winds east (25) in mainland inlets, otherwise north (15). Lows tonight and high tomorrow—at Port Hardy and Sandspit, 28 and 40; Prince Rupert, 23 and 35.

## Obstacles to Entry of Germany Removed

Agreement Reached on Seven Important Points

LONDON (CP)—The foreign ministers of three western powers and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of Western Germany said today they have removed obstacles to Germany's entrance into the European community. Ministers are Dean Acheson of United States, Anthony Eden, British Foreign Minister, and Foreign Minister Robert Schuman.

France is listed in the communiqué.  
Seven points, they said, assured a successful conclusion of the talks now going on in Bonn and Paris.

The three ministers and Adenauer have been engaged in conference here since Saturday in an effort to smooth German-French relations and open the way for the creation of an European army in which German and French armed forces would be unified and pave the way for a "peace contract" between Western Germany and occupation powers.

Trapper's Body Found in North

VICTORIA — A Royal Canadian Mounted Police plane from Prince George is flying officers into the Dease Lake area, 20 miles from Moccasinn Mine, to investigate the death of Philip Hankin, 73-year-old trapper.

Hankin was found shot in his trap line cabin last Friday. A prospector, Stanley Bridcut, found the body, according to Royal Canadian Mounted Police here.

The cabin is near the British Columbia-Yukon border. It has been estimated that Hankin had been dead about one month. His dogs had been shot and covered with snow outside the cabin, police said.

### -TIDES-

Wednesday, February 20, 1952  
High 8:08 18.8 feet  
22:10 15.5 feet  
Low 1:42 10.6 feet  
15:32 5.9 feet

## Speech Announces Limited Program of Legislation

General Election and Liquor Plebiscite Indicated—Important Issues Deferred

VICTORIA (Canadian Press) — The Speech from the Throne read today at the opening of the British Columbia Legislature forecast a provincial general election soon and a plebiscite on the liquor question.

The speech, read by Lieutenant Governor Clarence Wallace, said the only business to be placed before the Legislature will be of a nature considered to be "essential for the maintenance of public service."

The plebiscite on liquor will probably ask the opinion of the voters on the sale of spirits by the glass in cocktail bars. Presumably the plebiscite will be held at the same time as the election.

The Speech also said that the Legislature will be asked to ratify the new Dominion-provincial taxation agreement.

Reports of three inquiry boards into compulsory hospital insurance service, the Labor Act and Workmen's Compensation will be tabled but only "certain recommendations" of the board inquiring into workmen's compensation will be dealt with, the Speech said.

In view of the recent death of the King, usual pomp and ceremony were lacking when the Lieutenant-Governor opened the session. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, however, fired a salute and there was a guard of honor.

The Speech from the Throne was kept carefully guarded until it was read by the Lieutenant-Governor.

### John Gilbanks Laid at Rest

Funeral was held yesterday of John Gilbanks, 62-year-old veteran of two wars who died suddenly last Thursday. Rev. Fred Antrobus officiated at the rite, held from Grenville Funeral Chapel.

Numerous Legion members were present. Mrs. J. S. Black, organist, played two hymns, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and "Abide With Me."

A Canadian Legion ceremony followed at the burial plot at Fairview Cemetery at which Bugler W. J. Rance played the "Last Post."

Palbearers, all Legion members, were Bob Bone, Carl Anderson, John Laurie and John Macdougall.

### Strike Today

The strike at the Ford Motor Co. plant ended today after a new agreement with the company had been reached by the union. The walk-out had begun Saturday night.

### Today's Stocks

VANCOUVER	
American Standard	25
Bralorne	6.00
BRX	.04
Cariboo Quartz	1.20
Congress	.05
Cronin Machine	.48
Grant Electric	1.03
Imperial Mines	.22
Metallum	8.50
Metallum	2.15
Order	.35
10	.10
03 1/2	.03 1/2
1.67	1.67
60	.60
21	.21
.03	.03
.10	.10
2.52	2.52
3.25	3.25
TORONTO	
.09	.09
.20	.20
.83	.83
22 1/2	22 1/2
37.50	37.50
3.90	3.90
.46	.46
.22	.22
8.50	8.50
11.00	11.00
.13	.13
.13 1/2	.13 1/2
.12	.12
.50	.50
.68	.68
.13	.13
1.91	1.91
.41	.41
2.75	2.75
.40	.40
.68	.68
79.50	79.50
.30	.30
1.54	1.54
2.41	2.41
18 1/2	18 1/2
4.25	4.25
7.80	7.80
1.87	1.87