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Prospectors Get Break In New Licensing Plan

OTTAWA (CP)—The days of the big battles between prospectors over northern land staked out for oil and gas exploration are about over.

The resources department plans a new permit-granting program which will not only end disputes but also will make life a lot easier for the hard-working prospector.

Under the new program, which likely will become effective in about a month, prospectors won't have to go to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories to stake out their claims.

They merely will apply at the department's Ottawa lands division offices and tell the clerk which area they want to explore.

The clerk will check a big grid map, find out if the land has been previously staked, and if not grant the applicant his permit.

That's all there will be to it. Under old regulations, the prospector had to get into the Yukon and Northwest Terri-

ories and actually drive in his stake at one corner of his claim. He then had 30 days in which to apply for an oil or gas exploration permit at Ottawa.

Many prospectors, said the department, found this highly unsatisfactory. Since the area to be staked had to be at least 50 miles square, it was difficult to tell whether some other prospector had driven in his stake in some other section of the area.

HARD TO SETTLE

Disputes developed and these were sometimes difficult to settle. However, the old regulations are being withdrawn, effective Feb. 26. That means prospectors will have 30 days from that date to apply for permits under the old regulations.

The new regulations will apply only to the Yukon and Northwest Territories and only on gas and oil exploration.

Permits are granted on payment of a \$250 fee plus a deposit of five cents an acre. If the applicant doesn't spend at least five cents an acre on exploration during the first 18 months of his three-year permit, the money is forfeited to the government.

Aussies Plan Tax Talks With Ottawa

CANBERRA, (Reuters)—In a move designed to encourage Canadian investment in Australia, the government has decided to seek an agreement with Canada to abolish double taxation, reliable sources said here today.

Under double taxation, individuals and companies receiving income in both their own and foreign countries are required to pay income tax to both.

It is regarded an important factor discouraging overseas investment.

Patrick McGovern, Australia's federal taxation commissioner, will leave for Canada next month to negotiate the agreement. He is expected to visit the U.S. also to make final arrangements with Washington.

At Ottawa, a revenue department official said Canada will be glad to open such negotiations.

Canadian officials said, however, that Canada already provides tax relief through legislation for Canadians working or doing business in Australia or other countries where no bilateral tax agreement exists.

Under federal law, Canadians in Australia get a tax credit for the taxes they pay to the country in which they are working or doing business.



A VETERAN BUYER at a Montreal fur auction looks over a pile of beaver pelts before they go under the hammer. A trend seen in recent auctions is a lessening demand for long-haired furs.

British Army Setting up Huge Base South of Antwerp

By GEORGE BOULTWOOD

ANTWERP (AP)—For the fourth time this century the British army is back in Belgium.

Some 2,000 Tommies, helped by thousands of Belgian workmen, are rushing to completion a vast base just south of Antwerp to supply the British forces in Germany.

Up to now the 110,000 British troops in North Germany have been supplied through Hamburg, but Hamburg, within shelling distance of the Russian zone, has been ruled out as a war base.

A bilateral agreement was made with Belgium to use the port of Antwerp, the British base for the Second World War invasion of Germany. The Belgian government agreed to provide the land and pay 20 per cent of construction costs. When the British pull out of the base it becomes Belgian property.

The base is spread over an area 30 miles wide and 20 miles deep with huge warehouses for ammunition, vehicle spare parts, signals equipment, tinned rations, clothing, weapons and the hundreds of other objects a modern army needs.

A bulk petrol dump, big enough to supply a whole city, has been built. The main railway line runs along the dump. Vast quantities of fuel can be sent to Germany by both barge and tank car.

Detailed figures naturally are

a military secret but just one of the dozens of hangar-like sheds contains stocks of 45,000 different items.

This spring the British troops will move into permanent modern barracks. Permanent schools, 150 houses for married soldiers and a small hospital are planned.

Huge quantities of stores already have been moved back from Hamburg and other points in Germany. About 10,000 Belgians will eventually be employed by the dumps.

To save British manpower special Belgian guards have been recruited and trained. Anti-aircraft defence of the base comes within the framework of Belgium's national defence.

An organization known as Rhine District funnels the stores to the units up front by the Iron Curtain. At present there are four British divisions there.

Drought Still Continues in Brazilian Area

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A prolonged drought—now in its third year—is spreading hunger, riots and death in Brazil's hilly northeast area.

The federal government, at the insistence of the affected states, now is mobilizing help for the stricken areas.

Authorities have termed the drought, in a normally dry area, "the greatest of modern times." They report a mass exodus from the countryside, without rain now since 1950.

The state of Sao Paulo alone estimates that it has received 455,000 refugees in the last two years.

The presence of a homeless and hungry "floating" population has given rise to violence in some villages. Food stores have been raided by mobs.

The bishop of Sobral, in Ceara, asked help from the state government saying the city was menaced by 300 armed men. "Hunger," the bishop said, "is intense throughout the region."

The Rio de Janeiro newspaper "Tribuna da Imprensa," which sent a special team to the region, said starving children begged food and water at the roadside.

Other reports said that the farmers had trimmed bark from trees, or made a stew from nettles, to feed their children.

SCREEN FLASHES

Seldom has Hollywood transferred a best-selling novel to the screen with all the brilliance that Twentieth Century-Fox has achieved in filming Daphne du Maurier's "My Cousin Rachel," the superb suspense drama which opens Thursday at the Totem Theatre.

Nunnally Johnson, who produced and wrote the screen play, and Henry Kostner, who directed, combined suspense, romance, intrigue and tragedy, plus all the doubts and suspicions of which man is capable, to make "My Cousin Rachel" one of the most provocative dramas of recent years.

Like the novel which was on best-seller lists for two years, the film makes no attempt to solve the mystery of whether "Rachel" is a murderess or not. Mr. Johnson, like the authoress, wisely offers circumstantial evidence, both convicting and exonerating her. Leaving the audience to decide her guilt or innocence, Mr. Johnson has come forth with one of the most talked about films in Hollywood history.

To play the provocative heroine, Twentieth Century-Fox lured Olivia de Havilland back to the screen. Using every acting device at her disposal and combining her exceptional talent with a backlog of acting experience, Miss de Havilland's portrayal of "Rachel" ranks with the greatest dramatic achievements of modern times and puts her high on the list when Academy Award time rolls around.

No less memorable is Richard Burton, a new comer from England, who makes his American film debut as the youth who falls under Rachel's spell. Strong and handsome, yet weak and cowardly when the story requires it, Burton rises majestically to the occasion and seems destined for cinema greatness.

Inquiry Demand Voted Down

OTTAWA (CP)—The Commons Monday rejected a Progressive Conservative demand for an inquiry into activities of the Canadian government, its departments and agencies.

Members voted 96 to 43 against the motion by George Drew, Progressive Conservative leader.

Golden Jubilee

MOOSE JAW, Sask. (CP)—This southern Saskatchewan city will celebrate its golden jubilee this year. Celebrations are being planned to start on June 28.

The Story of Maria Gotti
—Also—
Cartoon - News
"PLEASURE TREASURE"
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TODAY ONLY "RAINBOW ROUND MY SHOULDER" and "MONTANA TERRITORY"
7: - 8:20 p.m.

20th Century-Fox brings to the screen the most important book of the year
starring
Olivia de Havilland
Two-time Academy Award Winner
with the exciting star discovery
Richard Burton

"My Cousin Rachel"
of her they said, "a woman to love, but not to marry"

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NOTICE

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RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
Wednesday, March 11th
8:00 p.m.
in the Metropole Hall, 3rd Ave. W.

J. Prusky
CHAIRMAN.

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SPORTSMAN'S DIGEST

THE FABLE OF THE BLOODHOUND.....



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Food Shortage Hits Three Satellites

MUNICH (AP)—A Communist failure in farm policy is threatening Eastern Europe with hunger.

Three Soviet satellites—Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary—are hit by food shortages and seriously behind in planting 1953 crops. Public admissions by Communist officials of agricultural deficits show that millions of acres turned into collective and state farms since 1950 have slumped in production because of mismanagement.

Independent farmers are harassed by discriminatory delivery quotas, crippled by lack of mechanical equipment diverted to collectivized estates, and demoralized by ill-conceived Communist directives on every phase of their work.

Czechoslovakia, once the world's third largest producer of beet sugar and a famous "potato basket," suffered crop failures last year primarily because a Communist-enforced planting date was followed by frosts.

Now it has sugar rationing, and potato supplies for consumers are 37.5 per cent below normal. Production of cereal grains in 1952 was only half of domestic needs, sufficient before the war.

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