

# Red Square Still Retains Signs of Czarist Russia

By BILL BOSS

MOSCOW (CP) — Red Square was called Red Square hundreds of years before the Communist revolution.

The Russian word "krasnaya" means "red" and also "beautiful," "central" or "important." My guide said a pretty girl in Russia is a "red" girl. In older Russian homes the "best" corner of the living room is the "red" corner.

The Communists have discarded much of the old in Russia but seem to have left untouched some aspects of the country's past. In the Kremlin, for instance, St. George's Hall

is still St. George's Hall, and the names of Assumption, Annunciation and Archangel cathedrals in the Kremlin have not been changed.

And Red Square, which lies beside the Kremlin's eastern wall, carries the old name—and not because of its association with the modern Soviet red flag or the Communist uprising of October, 1917.

Red Square, about 10 times the size of a Canadian football field, was Moscow's "important market place" in the 17th century, the guide said. From a low tower on the Kremlin wall which now overlooks the Lenin-Stalin mausoleum, the czars used to watch the people bargaining with merchants from Persian, Greece and Byzantium.

When the Russias were united, Red Square became the place where the czars' orders were proclaimed and where important functions were enacted.

Also, said the guide, it was "red" partly because public executions took place there and blood flowed on a low platform still pointed out to visitors as "lob-no-yeh myesto"—the "forehead" of the square.

The four main gates to the Kremlin still retain their ancient names. Above the Kremlin's 50-foot brick wall rise the gables of the office in which Prime Minister Georges Malenkov works.

Spaski Gate has a beautiful clock tower, topped by one of the five enormous red stars adorning various Kremlin buildings.

"Spaski" means "Christ" or "Saviour." Under the Communists, Spaski Gate has lost its old ikon (religious painting on wood) and the two-headed Russian eagle on its spire has been replaced by the Red Star, but it has kept its name.

At the south end of Red Square, near the "forehead spot" is St. Basil's Cathedral, a 10-domed brick-and-stone structure built for Ivan the Terrible in 1560. At the square's other end is the National Institute, a monument to the life of Lenin.

The square's east side, opposite the Kremlin, is taken up with a long ornate three-storey building built in 1894 as a closed-in market. Since the revolution it has been an office building. Now it is being renovated for use as the largest department store in the Soviet Union.

When it opens, history will have run the cycle and commerce will be back in old Red Square. If the ghost of some czar were to look down from the Kremlin tower he would notice changes but still would recognize the place.



PRINCESS MARGARET'S radiant smile lights up her whole person, as she appears in Manchester, England, for a ceremony at which she officially re-opened the Royal Exchange, seriously damaged during the Second World War.

### DEEP WATER

The average depth of the World's ocean is 12,450 feet—more than two miles.

# Western European Countries Enjoy Good Business at Home During Year

LONDON (CP) — Western European continental countries generally have enjoyed good business at home during 1953. But they face the new year worried about foreign trade.

Industrial production reached record peaks in West Germany and Italy. Farm yields were good except in drought-stricken Spain. Stock markets reflected confidence.

West Europeans bought more food and consumer goods. Despite bigger business volumes, inflation was held in check.

The economic clouds that hung over western Europe were mainly due to the sluggish and lopsided movement of international trade on the Continent and the seemingly chronic shortage of dollars.

Most governments tended to take off controls and encourage freer enterprise. A notable exception was Norway where socialists pushed through a permanent price control law.

Booming West Germany made the year's biggest business news. Industrial output was up and business expanded steadily in all categories. Living costs went down and industrial workers' income rose.

The French economic picture was not especially bright. Although wage levels and consumer price indices remained fairly steady, workers grumbled because of considerable partial or short-term unemployment and slight increases in the prices of food which takes 70 per cent of the little man's

budget. Italy boasted an expanding internal economy with record high agricultural and industrial production.

In Scandinavia, Sweden enjoyed a steady boom with stable price and wage levels and an improved international trade balance. In Norway, industrial production increased, people had more money to spend and business sales expanded. But the country was uneasy because of her steadily deteriorating

trade balance. Austria had a good year at home and abroad. Foreign exchange reserves climbed.

Spain's economy largely marked time through 1953 hoping that the arrival of U.S. dollar aid next year will give the country a shot in the arm.

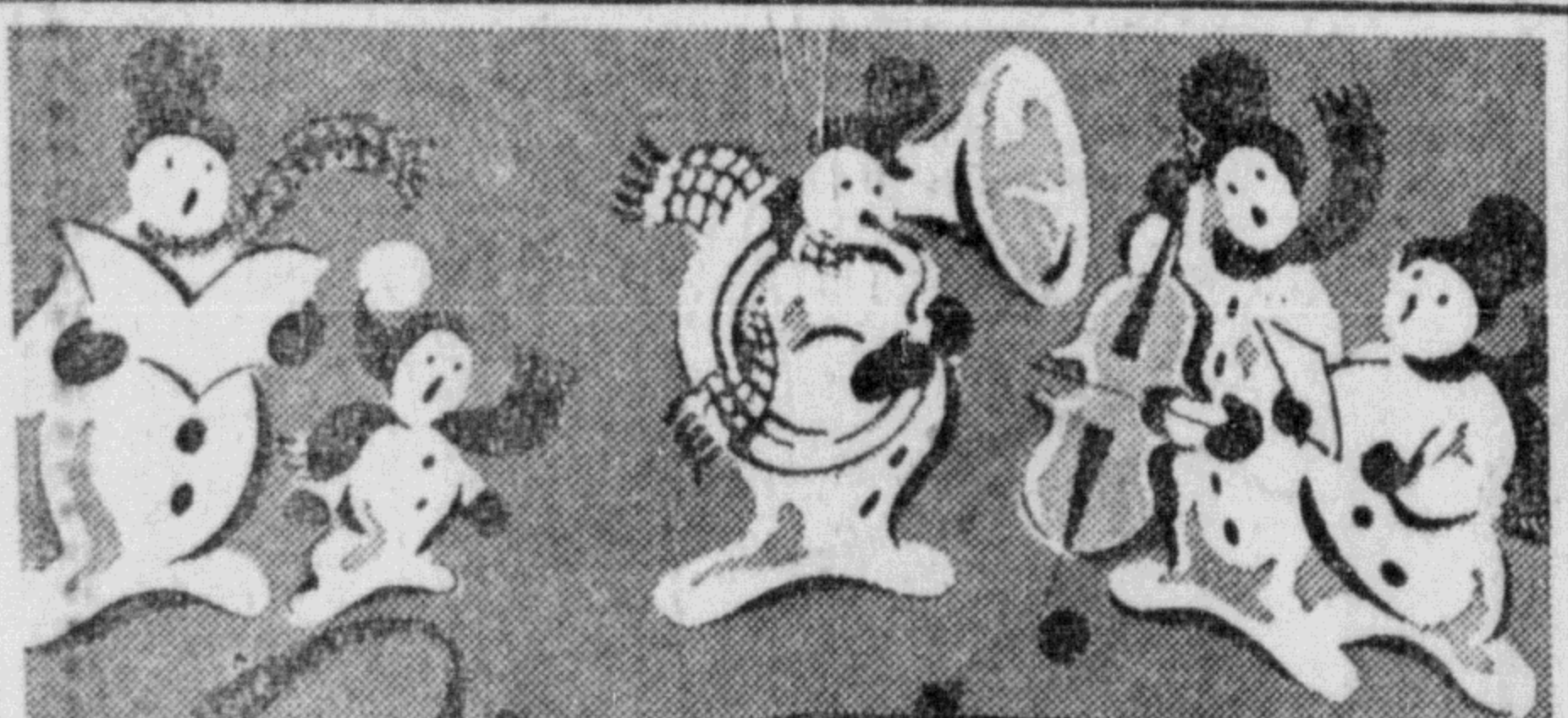
Prosperous Belgium had another good year. Despite the February flood disaster the Netherlands fared well in both its national economy and in world markets.



## SEASONS GREETINGS

To all our friends... May this Holiday Season be the happiest one you've ever enjoyed.

PETER PAN GIFT SHOPPE



## Greetings

In harmony with this joyous season... we extend our best wishes for the happiest holiday ever.

COLUSSI'S MUSIC STORE

# Holiday Greetings

It is our sincere wish that your Holiday Season be enriched with all the blessings that belong to Christmas... that you find every happiness in the New Year ahead.

YUKON JEWELLERS

## Season's Wishes

It is our our sincere wish that all the goodness of this glorious holiday may be yours to enjoy to the utmost. Merry Christmas!

GREER & BRIDDEN Limited

## Greetings of the SEASON

At this glad time of the year, we wish for you and yours: the Joy of giving, the Satisfaction of appreciation and the blessing of love.

PARKER'S EXCLUSIVE LADIES' READY-TO-WEAR

# GREETINGS

The loyalty of our many friends gives to us added confidence and much promise for the future. We wish a Joyful Christmas and Successful New Year to all.

PRINCE RUPERT SHOE REPAIR

## GREETINGS to All

May all the joy which comes from the true spirit of Christmas be yours through all the New Year.

ELLIS AIR LINES

## Greetings

From all of us to all of you—a Merry Holiday Season, filled to the brim with joys of the Yuletide.

SILVERSIDES BROS.

## Season's Greetings AND BEST WISHES TO ALL

GEORGE HILL AND SONS LIMITED

## Joy at Christmas

Now is the time for all Good Holiday Wishes... may we wish to all our friends the best of health and joy for Christmas and the New Year.

VICTORY CAFE

# Warm Wishes at Christmas

May this happy Yuletide season brim over with all good things —with surprises as merry and pleasing as the findings under your Christmas tree. To all our friends, both old and new, go our warmest and sincerest wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season.

SUNRISE GROCERY