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TIDES

Thursday, November 29, 1956

(Pacific Standard Time)

B.C. COASTAL COMMITTEE
% ARCHIVES OF B.C.
PARLIAMENT BLDGS., VICTORIA, B.C. ATT: W.E. IRELAND

Jury Says Liberal Chief Not Guilty Of Slander

Judge Delays Final Decision

VANCOUVER (CP)—Arthur Laing, leader of British Columbia's Liberal party, has been cleared of libel and slander charges by an eight-man jury which cautioned politicians about possible injury to third parties during political debate.

Mr. Laing, member of the legislature for Vancouver-Point Grey until his defeat in the recent provincial elections, was sued for libel and slander by the contracting firm of Wade and Wells Co. Ltd., which was involved in construction of a mining access road between Cassiar and Stewart in northern B.C.

While clearing Mr. Laing of the charges in connection with statements made about the work done on the Cassiar-Stewart road, the B.C. Supreme Court jury made this recommendation after a three-hour deliberation:

"During political controversies, in speaking under the law of privilege, a reasonable care should be exercised when a third party who may be innocent is involved in the controversy."

Mr. Justice N.W. Whittaker delayed judgment on the case until today after Wade and Wells' counsel, Col. Cecil Merritt, VC, indicated that in view of the jury's recommendation he might ask for further consideration by the court for his client.

Mr. Laing's letter to Mr. Merritt had alleged a "shocking state of affairs" had been revealed in connection with the mining road. He had urged that Wade and Wells' contract be reviewed with the possibility of recovery from the contractors.

Canadian Dollar Hits 25-Year High

NEW YORK (CP)—Only once in the history of the Canadian dollar has the Canadian dollar reached the skyscraper height it reached Tuesday in terms of United States currency.

The dollar stepped forward 1/4 of a cent for the day to close at the New York market at \$1.04 3/4, and eclipse the mark of \$1.04 1/4 set in the fall of 1952.

The record high of \$1.05 1/2 was reached Nov. 16, 1953, when an American revaluation of the gold price from \$20.67 to \$35 an ounce stirred up a demand for Canadian gold stocks.

The low was in December, 1951 when the dollar was at a discount of 2 1/4 per cent.

The brawny showing Tuesday, which tweaked twinges of concern on both sides of the border, was credited in part to Canadian borrowing in the U.S. capital market, where interest rates are lower.

Swapping these borrowed American dollars for Canadian to go to work there has the effect of lifting up the Canadian currency.

FUNDS FROM EUROPE
Another factor has been an influx of funds from European sources, with investors on the Continent feeling their money is safer in Canada in view of the Suez and Eastern European situations.

Army Camp Fire Causes \$1,775,000 Damage

CALGARY (CP)—Military equipment valued at \$1,775,000, including 18 Centurion tanks, was destroyed by fire at suburban 89th army camp late Tuesday.

Three units of the Currie army barracks fire brigade arrived on the scene shortly after an explosion sent flames racing through a huge tank hangar. It could do little because of lack of water.

Maj. C. F. McLean said the water supply to fire hydrants in the area had been shut off. "There is only a small group of buildings used as a summer camp," Maj. McLean said. "Most of them aren't occupied during the winter and many of the hydrants are shut off."

"As it was, both hose and water would have been useless in stopping it for within minutes the whole building was out of control," said Maj. McLean. "All we could do was halt it from spreading."

Army officials said the hangar, covering 19,000 square feet and built of steel and concrete, was worth \$150,000. It was destroyed by the flames. The value of a Centurion tank was \$125,000. Six of the tanks were reported to be new.

Tories, Pearson Say U.S. Not Blameless in Crises

OTTAWA (CP)—The government's attitude toward Britain and France on the Middle East crisis has been sharply criticized by Progressive Conservatives in the Commons. External Affairs Minister Pearson says it was an objective attitude.

But neither Mr. Pearson nor the Conservative critics Tuesday left the United States free of blame for the explosive situation in the Middle East following the British-French armed intervention.

The breakdown on consultation between the U.S. and Britain and France over the Suez trouble was not the exclusive fault of the U.K. and France, Mr. Pearson said.

ALL SHARE BLAME
"No other member, indeed no member of the Western alliance, is free of some responsibility and particularly the U.S. which is the major and most powerful member of that group."

Donald Fleming (PC-Toronto) said the policies of the U.S. "are responsible to a very considerable degree—a regrettable degree—for the trouble that exists in the Middle East today." Those policies unquestionably had encouraged Egyptian Premier Nasser "to take the defiant attitude that he had adopted."

Howard Green (PC-Vancouver) said the U.S. brought on Egypt's seizure of the Suez Canal by refusing financial help for the proposed Aswan dam on the Nile River. Now U.S. policy was to build up Egypt and presumably get Britain and France out of the Middle East.

They spoke as the Commons went through its second day of a special parliamentary session to consider the government's action on the Middle East situation and its plan to contribute \$1,000,000 to Hungarian relief.

EGYPT DENIES EXPULSION
Egypt has denied any mass expulsion is planned and said British and French nationals were placed under "restricted residence" for their own protection.

Coo said he cabled the British foreign office asking intervention by neutral Switzerland to find out from President Nasser what has happened to the missing Jews.

Jewish residents of Port Said—who number about 3,000—reported one member of each family was taken away by Egyptian police the night of Nov. 1. None has been heard from since, British-French troops landed in the canal zone Nov. 5.

More than 2,800 persons are engaged in playing March of Dimes Bingo at the Elks Lodge 342, sponsors here of the fund campaign to raise money for the Crippled Children's hospital in Vancouver, said today.

Going into the fourth day of the games, the spokesman said that today's numbers to be circled on the house-bingo cards are:

G-57 and G-18.
Other numbers drawn so far are O-61, B-11, O-06, N-31, B-5 and I-18.

Visitor Granted Stay in Jail
A Telkwa man who yesterday asked Magistrate W. D. Vance in police court to be sent to Okalla Prison Farm as it would be easier to find employment when he was released, had his request granted today when he was sentenced to one month in jail.

Joseph Elmer Charrette who came into the police station voluntarily Monday night requesting to be locked up as he had no money, food or lodging told Magistrate Vance yesterday morning that he didn't mind being sent to prison. Sentence was deferred until this morning for the Magistrate to look into the matter.

The damage caused by shipping and road accidents during the six-day pen-scraper also totals thousands of dollars.

Tuesday a CNR yard employee, Gary Peterson, 20, was run over and killed at New Westminster because he couldn't see a train bearing down on him. At least a dozen persons have been injured in traffic accidents. Late Tuesday the weather office at Vancouver reported no sign that the fog would lift within 24 hours.



ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE than 24 hours after the Cabinet announced its assignment of air transport support for the United Nations Emergency Force, the RCAF's 435 Squadron was on its way to the Middle East. Speedy preparations at Downsview airport, near Toronto, converted the squadron to its UN role. Last-minute briefings and the loading of spare parts and equipment to make No. 435 as self-sustaining as possible once they reached their new base at Naples also had to be crammed into the preparations. Then they were on their way for the first leg of the journey. This photo montage shows last-minute scenes leading up to the departure. (1) The first of the C-119 Packets to leave taxis down the runway for takeoff. (2) In a scene a little earlier, airmen touch up the new UN insignia freshly painted on the aircraft's side. (3) A spare motor is loaded aboard one of the squadron's Packets. (4) The crew of the first aircraft to take off on this UN assignment are posed as they board their aircraft for the flight. (National Defence Photos)

KITIMAT, REEVE TELLS PLANS

Million Dollar Debenture For Recreation Proposed

KITIMAT—Reeve Wilbur Hallman has proposed a "million dollar" debenture issue for the purpose of providing recreational facilities which he described as being badly needed here. Reeve Hallman was speaking with other candidates for municipal election at a Non Partisans Association meeting at the Anglican Hall.

The debenture issue would be spent in a two-year plan, he told the NPA meeting.

Half the money, if it were made available through by-law funds, would go to erecting a civic arena, the Reeve announced.

The arena would house an ice rink and be used in summer for roller skating. It would be a place where concerts could be staged.

Such an arena would call for a seating capacity of 3,000 to 4,000, he said.

It could also supply ice making for skating. The present two rinks cannot supply the demand for the ice sport, he said.

The second part of his proposal would be for the construction of swimming pools, the first of which would be built near the Neighborhood B high school, and a second placed near the future school south of Kitimat which will be cleared for housing in 1957.

He estimated the swimming pool units may cost \$150,000 and "would cover youth requirements."

"I would suggest changing the zoning by-law to allow short-term or emergency buildings. I do not like the word temporary, as opposed to permanent or long term buildings," he said.

The Reeve pointed out that in one week recently there were eight juvenile court cases and while he said facilities would not solve extreme delinquency, "we

would stop the great percentage of it up to the age of 21." The recreation for youngsters would not be tied in with schools, he stated, and "there should not be municipal tax dollars for that sort of supervision."

The Reeve said an armory would be a great addition to an arena. He had been advised that a branch of the Seaforth Highlanders would be formed if there were suitable facilities here. "The Legion are interested in the idea," he said.

Another proposal which Reeve Hallman said he had in mind was for a "drug strip" where young fellows could race their jalopies.

"They do it now where they are not allowed to, that creates a guilt complex," he said. Widening of the future airport strip by 50 feet would provide an ideal site for "hot rod" experts who could race their cars and who often develop into the country's best drivers.

The boys need somewhere to fix up their cars and where they can have their own locker and tool box, he advised.

"I think there are many people and service clubs who will help. I hope you think it is a good idea," he said.

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Jews Said Held As Hostages By Egyptians

PORT SAID, Egypt (CP)—A British official has appealed for a Red Cross investigation of reports Egyptian secret police are holding one member of each Jewish family in Port Said hostage.

The Red Cross inquiry was requested by Harry Coo, British consul in Port Said, as other protests were raised against reported Egyptian plans to deport British, French and Jewish residents from Egypt.

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Members of the Liberal party in the Skeena federal riding will convene at Terrace tonight to select a candidate for the coming federal elections. It is understood that the only nomination put forward so far is that of R. P. Applewhite, M.P.

Attending the convention from Prince Rupert will be: J. D. McRae, president of the federal Liberal association for this constituency, R. A. McLean and Walter Smith.

The convention will be preceded by a reception and banquet.

Beacon Out On Kiwash Island

Local shipping has been advised by N. A. Bokelov, marine agent for the Department of Transport, that the Kiwash Island lighted beacon No. 2564.0 in Puget Sound has been reported not burning and will be relit at the first opportunity.

Weather

Mostly clear along the mainland today and Thursday but with fog patches and low cloudiness over the water and the Charlottes. Little change in temperature. Winds light. Low tonight and high Thursday at Port Hardy 30 and 42, Sandspit 30 and 40, Prince Rupert 33 and 40.

Inquest Reset On Plant Death

Inquest into the death yesterday of Paul Dvornek, 42-year-old Columbia Cellulose Co. Ltd. electrician, was adjourned this afternoon until next Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the CCC plant.

Mr. Dvornek died from injuries received in an accident while working on an overhead crane at the Watson Island mill.

The jury, selected to serve by the Port Edward RCMP detachment, were sworn in this afternoon at Ferguson Funeral Home. They are: foreman, Jack Davis and Jurymen, Jens Vorfeldt, George McKee, Harold White, Robert Smith and Frederick Phusey.

After the body was identified and viewed the RCMP requested an adjournment to enable them to gather more pertinent information on the death.

Malenkov In Budapest

BUDAPEST (CP)—Former Soviet premier Georgi Malenkov was reliably reported today to be in Budapest to bolster the government of Russian-installed Premier Janos Kadar.

An excellent source, who asked not to be quoted by name, said Malenkov, now a deputy Soviet premier, arrived in the Hungarian capital Nov. 23.

This source said it was Malenkov who advised Kadar to change his lenient attitude and resort to harsh measures against still striking Hungarian workers.

Meanwhile from Vienna Reuters news agency reported that young Hungarian nationalists who fled to the hills with their weapons were reported today to be prepared to wage guerrilla warfare against the Russians.

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