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Defence Committee Failed to Answer

Invitation of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce to a senatorial committee which recently investigated the defences of Alaska to include Prince Rupert in its tour was not replied to, the Chamber was advised at its meeting Monday night. It was presumed that the invitation was sent too late to permit of the committee coming here.

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House Upholds British Gov't

LONDON (AP)—The Labor government, by fifteen votes, defeated a motion blaming it for taking no adequate steps to hold down the cost of living. The division was 299 against 284. Another crucial division is due tonight on a Conservative vote of censure on the matter of continued government controls.

The government last night weathered another challenge defeating by 12 votes an Opposition motion censuring the housing program. The resolution, calling the program "too little and too slow," was defeated 300 to 288. It was the 61st vote in Commons since the general election which left Prime Minister Attlee's Labor party with such a slight majority and it was the government's first victory in the new session of Parliament which started last week.

Stewart News

The children's Hallowe'en party held under the auspices of the Stewart Parent-Teachers' Association was an unqualified success. The youngsters had a wonderful time dressed, as they were, in variegated costumes—cow boys, darkies, tramps — they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the adults had just as good a time watching the show.

The secretary of the Stewart Branch of the Canadian Legion reports that everything is in line for Poppy Day on Saturday and that it is anticipated that the response will be better than ever. The usual service will be held at the Cenotaph and in the evening there will be a dance.

J. G. Steenbergen of the provincial assessor's office at Prince Rupert, arrived last week and, after transacting department business, left on the Q.C.A. plane on Friday. He was accompanied by the inspector.

Cassino Shelling Was Tragic Error

By J. C. GRAHAM
Canadian Press Correspondent

AUCKLAND, N.Z. (CP) — New Zealand's chief war historian has replied strongly to the claim by Gen. Mark Clark, U.S., in his book "Calculated Risk" that the bombing of Monte Cassino monastery in Italy was a tragic mistake. The United States general said it was the responsibility of Lt.-Gen. Sir Bernard Freyberg, V.C., commander of the New Zealand troops in the action.

Sir Bernard Freyberg, who led the New Zealanders throughout the Second World War and has become a legend in his lifetime, now is governor-general of New Zealand and in view of his official position has not made any comment.

But Maj.-Gen. Sir Howard Kippenberger, the New Zealand divisional commander at Cassino and now chief New Zealand war historian, has strongly defended the bombing of the monastery. Sir Howard took over the New Zealand division when Sir Bernard became commander of the corps specially formed for the assault on Cassino, comprising the New Zealand Division, the 78th British Division and the 4th Indian Division.

MILITARY "NECESSITY"

Sir Howard said the bombing of the monastery was a military necessity and the only right course in the circumstances. He quoted General Eisenhower's instruction issued less than two months previously: "If we have to choose between destroying a famous building and sacrificing our own men, then our men's lives count infinitely more and the building must go."

Sir Howard added: "It is immaterial whether the building was actually being occupied or not. There was a strong probability that it was being occupied and there was a certainty that when the storming troops reached the top of Monte Cassino they would find the abbey occupied and impregnable. The bombing reduced it to a condition where it had no military value. Buildings which are demolished are often more defensible as a result, but this was not the case as Cassino."

In January, 1944, the American 5th Army, under General Clark's command, attempted to cross the Rapido River without neutralizing Monte Cassino. They sustained a costly repulse. On February 6, 1944, the American 34th Division reported that its troops were pinned down by machine-guns on the abbey walls.

After General Freyberg took over, he received a request from the Indian Division for the bombing of the monastery. It was decided that it must be bombed for two reasons—it made an ideal observation post, and even if not manned by Germans before the attack the remnants of the German troops defending the hill would certainly use it for a final stand.

"I agreed with those views and I am certain that every soldier in the corps would have done the same thing," Sir Howard added. "It was suggested to General Clark that a light warning bomb should be dropped, giving a hint of what was in store and an opportunity for any civilians to leave. General Clark ridiculed the idea.

"I would like to say that it is very uncommon for a commander who has to admit that he acquiesced in a course of action of which he did not approve to attempt afterward to throw the responsibility on a subordinate."

HOTEL ARRIVALS

Prince Rupert

E. Spurr, E. F. Dalby, J. R. Bannerman, J. E. Melanson, W. E. Bryant and A. C. Bell, Vancouver; Frank Clark and William Trotter, Prince George; E. C. Webster and Miss S. Bowen, Victoria; H. F. Noakes, Terrace; Mr. and Mrs. A. Deery, Prince Rupert; T. J. Ritchie, Edmonton.

ELIMINATE HAZARDS

CHARLOTTETOWN (CP) — The provincial government in cooperation with the Canadian National Railways is carrying out extensive brush-cutting designed to eliminate all blind crossings at highway and railway intersections in Prince Edward Island.

Succumbed To Fall In Hatch

VANCOUVER (CP) — Frank M. Smith, 35-year-old ships fumigator, succumbed yesterday to injuries sustained when he fell 45 feet into the hold of a Greek ship berthed at Lapointe Pier.

Firemen said that Smith was using methyl bromide gas to fumigate an upper portion of the ship—ss Pionios—when he was overcome and fell down the hatch. It took firemen several hours to extricate him.

Death occurred in hospital a few hours later.

Export of B.C. Packers

British Columbia Packers Ltd., Vancouver, is engaged in the production and canning of salmon, pilchard, herring, clams and oysters and the manufacturing of fish oils and meals, says Financial Post in a food industries review. Additional new products have been developed since 1947 including packaged frozen fish, varieties of fish paste, a canned smoked fillet of herring and numerous other products still in the development stage.

With an extensive export market, the company's products are marketed in 25 countries, chiefly Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and British South Africa.

Operations in the 11 months ended March 31, 1950 resulted in net sales of $29,198,295, up sharply from $27,333,390 in 1949. Net profit, after deducting minority interest, amounted to $1,078,781 (996,541). Operations for the month of April usually result in a small net loss which should be borne in mind in comparing results, President J. M. Buchanan states.

As at March 31, 1950, current assets totaled $10,052,637 while current liabilities amounted to $5,847,927.

During the year, certain of the subsidiaries were wound up and their activities consolidated with the parent company's for efficiency and economy. An arrangement has been entered into with Nova Scotia producer of fillets to custom pack Atlantic halibut fillets and haddock fillets in one-pound cartons.

Hope's Funniest Picture Is Here

Funniest picture of his many comedies is said to be Bob Hope's "Fancy Pants," coming to the Capitol Theatre here for a four-day stand commencing tonight. Co-starred with Hope is Lucille Ball. The hilarious laugh-fest is filmed in technicolor.

Portraying a gentleman's gentleman in monocle and dress clothes, Hope finds himself very much out of place in a rough and tumble cattle town. Swaggering but loveable coward whenever danger threatens as it does often, he is called upon at one time to impersonate a British earl and meet President Theodore Roosevelt. The resulting confusion creates as much fun as any one could wish for.

Miss Hope is the daughter of the family which Hope serves as butler. First disliked, he bravely stands up to two-gun Bruce Cabot and wins the girl's love.

"Home Cooking'" and "Fancy Pants' are the song hits of the piece. Eric Blore, John Alexander, Jack Kirkwood and Hugh French are included in the supporting cast.

MONTREAL (CP)—The Arctic Institute of North America at McGill University received from the University of British Columbia a huge box kite, used by Roald Amundsen, famous Arctic explorer, nearly 30 years ago. Now the institute is looking for a suitable space to exhibit it.

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