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TOWN TOPICS

District 50 North Saanich A.R.P. will meet Thursday at 8 in Marigold Hall. Capt. Levein, chief of Saanich A.R.P., will speak.

A meeting in the interests of the "Mission to Lepers" will be held Friday at 2.30 at 1012 Chamberlain. Miss Gillespie of Japan will speak.

The manager of Jean Fraley's Chocolate Shop, 609 View, complained to police Tuesday some boys had been stealing chocolate Easter eggs set outside to cool.

City firemen at 10.57 Tuesday night quickly extinguished a blaze in a car at Cook, near Yates. No damage was done to the car, which was owned by W. E. Malloy.

A car driven south on Langley by Alexander McFarlane, 1164 Myra, and an army truck driven west on Bastion by H. Lafargey, West Point Barracks, were considerably damaged in a collision at 10.30 today.

Permit for a \$3,800 six-room home for S. Hancock at 1544 Westfall Avenue was issued by the city building inspector's office today. Another permit covered \$500 additions to an office and dressmaker's shop at 1619 Douglas Street.

The 61th Battalion (Western Scots) annual reunion dinner will be held this year at the Plaza Hotel, Nanaimo, on March 21. Those intending to be present are asked to get in touch with Lieut. Col. Lorne Ross, Harold Rourke or Capt. Stan Okell.

Geo. Nunn of Sidney and Cecil French addressed the Victoria Horticultural Society meeting at City Hall Tuesday evening, the former on rose-growing and the latter on culture of silkworms. Mr. French asked members to plant mulberry trees, the leaves of which are the favorite food of silkworms. Mrs. H. Marshall won the monthly competition.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland and Mines Minister Herbert Anscomb are in Vancouver on government business today. Minister of Labor Geo. Pearson returned from Vancouver. Education Minister H. G. T. Peiby is expected back from a visit to his home constituency of Fort George at the end of the week.

Social Service Being Studied

The government is studying possible changes in social service administration before the appointment of a successor to Dr. Geo. Davidson as director of social welfare, Hon. George S. Pearson, Provincial Secretary, said today.

Dr. Davidson will leave at the end of the month for Ottawa. Since the release of the Cassidy reports during the recent session of the Legislature, it is generally felt the government may act on some of the recommendations of Dr. H. M. Cassidy, made when he was social welfare director. He suggested more complete co-ordination of the various social services.

T. D. Pattullo, when he was premier, and Dr. G. M. Weir, as provincial secretary, said the reports were not in the public interest and refused to release them.

When the government changed in December, the new premier and the new provincial secretary turned them over to Opposition Leader Harold Winchey for study.

It is now expected some of the Cassidy recommendations will be implemented.

Biggest change in the social service field of this province will be transfer of the Old Age Pension Act administration from the Workmen's Compensation Board

Replacing Japs on Land Creates Acute Problem

Removal of Japanese from farms in the lower Fraser Valley will create a serious agriculture problem, Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, said today.

In recent years Japanese have produced the bulk of British Columbia's strawberries, raspberries, loganberries and rhubarb. Children, released early from schools can do the picking, the minister said, but children can't go onto the Japanese farms and grow the crops.

"Frankly, I don't know just what we are going to do," he said. "We must find labor some where, not only to take the place of the Japanese on the strawberry farms, but also to pick apples and other fruits."

CONFERENCE

J. H. McVety of Vancouver, who is charged with the removal of the Japanese away from the coast, came to Victoria today to discuss the agricultural phase of the Japanese removal with the labor, education and agriculture departments.

Dr. MacDonald said already he is receiving protests from farmers far in the interior who are afraid Japanese moved there will settle on the land.

In every branch of agriculture today, the minister said, the labor shortage is becoming daily more serious.

"A man can't produce milk or vegetables, if he hasn't the proper labor," he said. "I'm now convinced there will have to be a selective draft for compulsory service on the land. The problem is becoming more difficult every week and now there is this new problem of replacing the Japanese on the land."

Replacing Japanese farm labor on Vancouver Island does not arise, for there have been few Japanese farmers in this area. Victoria's strawberries have always been grown by white farmers on the Saanich Peninsula.

LOGGING

To a much lesser degree the logging industry of the coast will feel the pinch of a labor shortage when Japanese are removed from the mills and the woods.

Some Japanese have already left logging outfits and gone to the interior. Others are planning to leave.

So far there has been no definite move to get the Japanese out of the woods. They are subject to the same rules and regulations as Japanese in the cities.

Most of the Japanese logging plants and mills closed shortly after the Pacific war started. Freezing of Japanese assets pretty well crippled them.

Possibility of Mennonites and other conscientious objectors from the prairies coming to B.C. to help protect the forests is now being mentioned in government circles. The Dominion government has suggested these people be used in the woods this summer.

"Nothing has yet been decided—this will be a matter of B.C. government policy," said an official of the lands department today.

The forest branch is encouraging boys and girls, in communities that adjoin the forests, in fire fighting.

"When a forest fire breaks out, such communities are in danger and volunteer fire fighters in such communities must know how to battle forest blazes as well as fires in homes," said an official.

START WORK SOON

OTTAWA (CP)—Japanese moved from the Pacific coast will be at work on road projects in the Rocky Mountains as soon as the frost leaves the ground, officials said today. By tonight, 450 Japanese na-

Japanese automobiles and trucks, no date has yet been announced when R.C.M.P. will begin the actual confiscation.

VANCOUVER (CP)—Several Japanese families have left and are leaving the coastal defence zone by cars, trucks and train with the sanction of authorities, seeking places to settle east of the Cascade Mountains.

R.C.M.P. officials said that until a definite order is forthcoming for confiscation of all Japanese-owned cars and trucks and other articles, within the defence zone, the Japanese may continue to use them. Only stipulation if they move voluntarily outside the defence zone, is that they report to police before leaving, make known their destination and have their registration certificates endorsed by the R.C.M.P.

Three Japanese families left last night by train for the Raymond district of Alberta, and there have been indications some others who left previously already have reached that district. Others, traveling by car, are known to be en-route to points as far east as Winnipeg.

Plan Action For Defences

Strong measures were proposed by the city's special war committee today in response to urgent requests from a service corps auxiliary, which interviewed the committee calling for greater protection for Vancouver Island's vital points.

Details of the committee's plans were withheld pending a conference with Major-Gen. R. O. Alexander, G.O.C.-in-C, Pacific Command. It was intimated, however, the action would be one which could not be ignored in Ottawa.

The delegation also suggested formation of a civilian defence council to co-ordinate work of all civilians with defence authorities. That proposal was promised consideration.

Pending instructions from Ottawa on the establishment of an official, federally arranged A.R.P. organization here, the war board made no further plans for receptions of suggestions from Inspector A. H. Bishop, new A.R.P. officer. That official had certain recommendations prepared to submit at the meeting, but was instructed to wait until Victoria had been advised by the Dominion government of the actual requirements in personnel and equipment needed for this region, reportedly placed in the A category.

Improvements to the central control room in the police station basement were approved today, and purchase of spare parts for the two-way radio system was authorized up to \$125.

The board will attend the Oak Bay A.R.P. rehearsal at Oak Bay Municipal Hall tonight.

Branch Protests

Action of the Dominion Command of the Canadian Legion in requesting Victoria branches to withdraw from the mass meeting held in Beacon Hill Park Sunday to impress upon the Dominion government the urgent necessity of removing all Japanese from B.C. coast areas was challenged at a meeting of the Britannia branch held Tuesday night.

A statement on the meeting issued today by President Herbert Pearson said: "The meeting of the branch last night felt that the Dominion Command of the Legion was not conversant with the situation here, and while agreeing to their

OBITUARY

FARRINGTON—Funeral for Miss Agnes Farrington, who died of Vancouver, will be held in Sanas Mortuary Dr. A. E. Whitehead directs. Interment—

URE—Edward Ure Balmoral Street, died Tuesday. Mr. Ure was and had resided in his life. He is survived by brother, Graham, 71 and four sisters, Mitow, Victoria; Mrs. M. Bell, Portland, Ore.; E. Mackintosh, Victoria; Mrs. A. McCall, Victoria; Mrs. A. McCall, Victoria; Mrs. A. McCall, Victoria; Mrs. A. McCall, Victoria.

BOYD—Funeral service held in St. Mary's Bay, Victoria, for Ce Boyd, Shawnigan Lake, B.C. Rev. E. M. Will the services. Pallbearers: R. H. Pooley, K.C.; F. Hardy, F. Kinlock, H. W. C. mation at Royal O Brothers were in charge of the funeral.

METCALFE—Funeral for Walter Metcalfe, room foreman of the died last Friday, was held at Royal O Tuesday afternoon. Sandercock conducted services. The following bearers: W. A. Patte Thomson, A. Jones, C. Macdonald and Cremation at Royal O

McCAIG—Funeral Donald McCaig were held afternoon in the & Son Funeral Home, Anderson officiated. At Colwood, Pallbearers: D. Ross, M. Donaldson, R. Robertson, bell and J. Leiper.

SPENCE—Private services for John Lawrence were held Tuesday at Sanis Mortuary. R Hood conducted the Cremation at Royal O

CHRISTIE—Funeral for Mrs. Elizabeth Cal will be held at Salt Sp Thursday. Interment the Anglican Church S. J. Curry & Son in of funeral arrangements

BISHOP—Funeral Mrs. Maude Dorothy F held Tuesday afternoon Mortuary. Rev. Geo conducted the service and relatives attend whom were Premier Mayor Andrew McCall large representation Eastern Star, of which Bishop had been a member following acted as A. D. Macfarlane, K.C. Ferguson, Ainslie W. Harry Cathart, Bert E. Combe, Interment Bay.

PRATT—Hannah Pratt, 71, of Sidney Mount St. Mary Hosp Miss Pratt was born Yorkshire, England, and resided in Victoria for 18 years. She leaves one brother and a nephew in Hon a sister Mrs. J. B. Sidney. The remains will be interred in Call Brothers' chapel. Arrangements will be later.

BUTTON—Mrs. Dal Button, 45, died at Hospital Tuesday. M was born in England and resided in this city for 18 years. She formerly lived in Saskatoon for many years. She leaves her husband, her son, Roy, of N.V.R. The remains will be interred in Sands Mortuary from funeral services will be held at 2. Sgdn. Ldr. S. J.