

Berlin Reported "Friendly" Toward Proposal to Unshackle Prisoners

FINAL VERDICT STILL DELAYED

LONDON, Dec. 11.—The Berlin radio broadcast a D.N.B. announcement today that a Swiss Government proposal for unshackling German, Canadian and British war prisoners was receiving "friendly attention" in Berlin.

The broadcast added that until the final German attitude was available the Wilhelmstrasse would be unable to make any official comment.

The Nazi statement followed British and Canadian announcements that German prisoners, fettered in reprisal for like action, taken by the enemy, would be unshackled Saturday, three days earlier than the date mentioned by the Swiss.

Germany initiated the manacles after charging that British troops bound the hands of prisoners taken by the Canadian-British force at Dieppe and in raids on Sark Island.

Claims Officials Fly to Ottawa "Like Geese"

Cross-country meanderings of Ottawa officials roared biting sarcasm from Reeve R. M. Grauer of Richmond, at a meeting of the Fraser Valley Reeves' Association Thursday.

"These officials are flying back and forth across Canada like a bunch of geese," observed the Reeve.

"You ask Vancouver representatives for a ruling and they say they don't know but they will fly to Ottawa the next day."

Despite his remarks, the association decided to add to the flock by asking J. G. Taggart, Dominion food controller, to come to the coast for a conference on the milk and potato situation.

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WINNIPEG, SEEKS ASSURANCE

attempt to complete the speech he started last night but recalled that he had fainted only once before—in the middle of an important court case—and that time had come back to win the case next day.

SEEKS ASSURANCE

Just as the adjournment at noon was announced, John McDowell of Portage la Prairie, Man., rose to ask a question but was interrupted by Mr. Milner, who said he would permit nothing which might affect the leadership contest. He asked Mr. McDowell to submit his question in writing and then ruled it out of order.

Afterwards Mr. McDowell gave his question to reporters. It read:

"One of the five candidates last night failed to give the convention any assurance that, if defeated, he would still loyally support the new leader.

"Can you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Mr. Bracken, now give this convention that assurance which he failed to give us last night?"

With the vote approaching the convention wound up most of its other business in the morning. Developments were:

1. Adoption of the policy resolution in whole after approval of a few amendments.
2. Creation of a new Dominion Conservative Association on recommendation of the organization committee.
3. Appointment of a committee to study electoral reform.
4. Indorsement of a demand for "restoration of the supremacy of Parliament."

RECEIVES OVATION

Mr. Green received an ovation when he came to the platform, accompanied by House Leader Hanson.

"He looks as well as ever," said Chairman H. R. Milner of Edmonton as the tall Vancouver lawyer came on the platform.

Mr. Green said he must apologize "for missing up the meeting last night."

Some of his best friends had accused him of doing it on purpose, he said with a smile.

The Conservative party had a great part to play in the life of Canada, he said. The party was at the turning of its tide and was rededicated to the service of the country.

"Let us be united under our new leader," Mr. Green said. "We have something to sell to the people of Canada."

"The delegates should leave the meeting as a body of crusaders to make Canadians lives better than ever before and Canada the best place on the globe."

"We can do that," he added, speaking vigorously and fluently. "The convention might thus affect the life of Canada for years to come."

Sluggers Gets Two Years

NORTH VANCOUVER, Dec. 11.—Pleading guilty to a charge of robbery with violence, Patrick Thompson, 323 Powell, Vancouver, was sentenced to two years' hard labor in Oakalla by Magistrate R. A. Sargent in City Police Court Thursday.

On December 1 Thompson went to the home of Richard Morgan, Twenty-fourth and McKay, Capilano, slugged him on the head with a blunt instrument, struck him several severe blows in the face, tied his hand and feet and then robbed his 65-year-old victim of \$190 in cash and two checks valued at \$97.50. Morgan lay unconscious on the floor of

HERO — Primo Carnera, former world heavyweight champion, is credited with saving an actress from a boa constrictor. Word from Rome, via Madrid, says that the actress, Egilda Cechini, was attempting to dance wrapped in the live reptile during a film production, when the snake began to crush her. Carnera, who was among the audience, came to her rescue. The giant prize fighter won his world title from Jack Sharkey in 1933 and lost it to Max Baer in 1934.

Japs In Defense Zones Won't Get Radios Back

Radios seized from B. C. Japanese in accordance with orders issued in Ottawa last spring will be restored to their owners if the owner is not at present living in an area designated as a defense zone, according to information received by the custodian of enemy property.

Officials report that approximately 600 receiving sets are stored at R. C. M. P. barracks in Vancouver. Dominion Government officials ordered all radios in the hands of Japanese confiscated as a security measure.

Fisherman Believed Drowned

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 11. — Bert Leonard, 26, fisherman, is missing and believed to be drowned off Discovery Island. Provincial police are dragging for the body. Leonard, who came from the Crows Nest Pass, where his parents reside, had been fishing for only about six months. He was working with Gordon Henderson, an experienced fisherman.

Thursday they were on the cod bank off Discovery. Two lines were out, and Leonard was attending these. Henderson went to see to the engine forward; when he looked back his partner and the two lines were gone.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—(AP) — Albanian patriots were reported to have made a "full-

YUNNAN PROVINCE ATTACKED JAPANESE LAUNCH NEW OFFENSIVE IN CHINA

CHUNGKING, Dec. 11.—Strong Japanese forces, recently reinforced from Burma, have attacked Chinese defense lines in western Yunnan, the area in which the Chinese command has been expecting a major enemy offensive, a communique reported tonight.

The high command's war bulletin reported two days of heavy fighting in the area north of Tengyueh, west of the upper Salween River, in which it said the Chinese, resisting bitterly, held their lines. At last reports the fighting was continuing.

The Japanese were said to have begun the assault December 6, throwing three columns totalling some 6000 men against the defenders.

This battle zone is in the small slice of western Yunnan, into which the Japanese penetrated last spring after their conquest of Burma.

George A. Lees Taken by Death

George Albert Lees, 64, of 4861 Marguerite, well-known pioneer resident and retired men's haberdasher, died Thursday at his home.

Born in Fallbrook, Ont., he came to Vancouver 47 years ago. He was the owner of Lees' Haberdashery on the corner of Hastings and Cambie and later sold out to join J. B. Thomson Company, which later was incorporated by Galt Bros. He retired about 15 years ago.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Grant King, Penitence, and Miss Helen, at home; and one brother, Dr. F. Lees, Nanaimo, now on active service.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. in Center & Hanna Chapel. Interment will be in the family plot, Mountain View Cemetery.

BRACKEN

from the delegates and he decided to abide by the wishes of his supporters to continue the contest.

When he asked if the delegates wanted him to go into the second ballot, there were shouts of "yes," and he sat down again.

"NO, NO, STAY THERE."

Mr. Diefenbaker approached the microphone to say something, but shouts of "No, no, stay there," greeted him and he resumed his seat.

The voting on the first ballot had been scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m. P.D.T.) but there was a considerable delay.

The votes cast numbered 870. Chairman H. R. Milner of Edmonton announced the second ballot was closed at 3:22 p.m.

Mr. Stevens, asked whether he were quitting public life altogether, said to the Canadian Press: "Well, you can see the vote for yourself."

His gesture indicated that that was what he intended to convey. "Anyway," he added, "they have accepted my policies if they have not accepted me."

Before the voting began Hon. J. Earl Lawson of Toronto announced there were 931 accredited delegates entitled to vote.

The division by provinces: Nova Scotia, 43; Prince Edward Island, 8; New Brunswick, 51; Quebec, 90; Ontario, 365; Manitoba, 96; Saskatchewan, 101; Alberta, 66; British Columbia, 83.

Two other accredited delegates came from the Yukon 15 others were special delegates at large, and 11 were Dominion delegates at large.

Maj. M. MacPherson was the only candidate who had previously faced a national convention as a leadership candidate. In 1938, at Ottawa, he ran

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"We lost a few tanks. Ener losses were considerably higher. This spurt on the rain-soak dormant main Tunisian front paralleled a German attempt halt an advance of American tanks and parachutists on opposite side of Tunisia, between Tunis and Tripoli, by rushing reinforcements by transport planes and glider trains.

While big Junkers-52 transports and their gliders played a deadly game of hide-and-seek with Allied fighters and to break up the traffic, of Axis forces were reported by inland from coastal bases Sfax, Gabes and Sousse to the Americans.

Supporting the American troops picked fighters commanded by Col. Edson Raab. French forces consisting infantry, artillery and corps units.

Raff's mixed command of the Germans a decisive lick last week northwest of Tebe some 150 miles from the coast and since then has been reported working its way seaward.

ROADS QUAGMIRES

Despite the fact that in northern Tunisia roads have turned into quagmires by advent of the rainy season, Allied spokesmen say that Lt. Gen. Kenneth Anderson and British-American army are ahead of schedule on the Axis war plan.

British and American fighters have been gradually whitening down the German air strength shooting down two planes every one they have lost.

Some sources estimate the Germans, who have withdrawn planes from eastern Europe and Russia, 1 about 1000 aircraft at their disposal in the Mediterranean theatre.

Allied bombers continue hammer at enemy bases, set fire to stores being unloaded from a freighter at Sousse pounding airbases in the vicinity of Tunis.

Although no major engagements were reported on Libyan land front, the Cairo communique said Axis advance forces at Agheila, appear to be in "a state of some nervousness" as the result of continued pressure British patrols.

Counter reprisals, even at the lowest level of calculation, seldom serve any practical purpose. Even if a gain were to be expected the outlook and temper of the British peoples unfit them for participation in reprisals. As the chains fall from prisoners' limbs, the goalers will feel it is they themselves who are liberated.

It is to be hoped, adds the Times, the British Government will not allow themselves to be provoked into reprisals again. The Times pays high tribute to the Swiss Government for its initiative.

Councils Approve Merger of Churches

CLEVELAND, Dec. 11.—(AP) — The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and the Home Missions Council of North America approved the creation of the North American Council of Churches; a merger of seven interdenominational agencies of the United States and Canada.

The agencies have no power

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Groucho Marx Coming to B.C. For Premiere

Three Hollywood movie stars—Groucho Marx, Jones and Irene Hervey—be in Victoria next Thur for the world premiere of Commandos Strike at Da

Announcement of the posed visit of the stars received today by Lieutenant Governor W. C. Woody who will be patron of premiere.

All proceeds will be turned over to the entertainment funds of the three services.

The world premiere will be held in the Capitol Theatre Victoria. The picture is one made in Victoria last summer with Paul Muni in leading role.

It is hoped that a movie stars will visit Vancouver after the premiere.

Explosives Chief Hurd

CALGARY, Dec. 11.—(AP) Lt.-Col. F. M. Steel, D.S.O., leave the city Saturday for Vancouver to take over the duties of explosives chief for the federal department of the interior.