

Confederation Work On Office Site

Newfoundland Tenth Province Thought Possible

OTTAWA (CP)—Leaders of the Canadian and Newfoundland delegations said today they thought it should be possible to work out a basis for entry of Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation.

Leaving a full conference of the two seven-man delegations, External Affairs Minister St. Laurent told reporters, "we now are getting down to the fundamental problem and we hope that in a relatively short time we will be able to see whether there is a basis for union that will work."

Turning to F. G. Bradley, head of the Newfoundland delegation, he added, "we think there is." Mr. Bradley echoed, "I think so, too."

At the same time, a formal statement was issued, reviewing progress in sub-committees on fisheries, transportation and financial relations, all of which "have now pretty well completed exploration of the special subjects referred to."

The statement added: "A further problem, compilation of data on the respective public debts of Canada and Newfoundland, is being dealt with and this and a few minor investigations have been completed it should be practicable to reach a conclusion as to what fair and equitable basis for union may exist."

Mr. St. Laurent said it was probable a further plenary session would be held next week, some five weeks after the Newfoundland group's arrival here, at the request of a national convention to probe the possibilities of making Newfoundland a 10th province.

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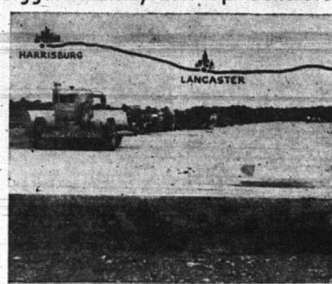
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Biggest Runway Eats Up Concrete



Enough concrete will be used in the world's largest and heaviest runway, now under construction at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, to pave a highway nine inches thick, 24 feet wide and 92.8 miles long—slightly less than the highway distance between Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pa. The massive runway, known as VVHB (Very Very Heavy Bombers), will measure 300 feet wide, stretch for 10,000 feet, and have a thickness of 26 inches. A total of 450,000 barrels of cement and 535,610 tons of aggregate will go into the runway, which will cover 108 acres when completed about Dec. 1 next.

LATEST Dutch, Indonesians Accuse Each Other Of Using Japs

New Bond Issue

OTTAWA (CP)—The government has decided to float this fall another issue of Canada savings bonds similar to those placed on public sale last fall. It was learned authoritatively today.

Union Chief Dies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—P. O. Peterson, general chairman of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, dropped dead today after talking with the president of the railway strike board at the Palace Hotel.

Icebergs Menace

MONTREAL (CP)—Icebergs are still menacing shipping lanes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, according to reports being received here from captains of freighters. One shipper wireless he had sighted three huge icebergs floating slowly in the midship channel.

Dutch Plane Lost

DARWIN, Australia (Reuter)—A Dutch plane due here tonight after a flight over hostile Indonesian territory from Batavia has not arrived at Koepang in Timor and its whereabouts at present unknown, it was reported here. It is a regular courier and passenger plane operating between Brisbane and Batavia.

Rain Death Toll 32

TOKYO (AP)—Delayed reports of torrential rains last week-end today raised to 32 the death toll on Honshu and Shikoku islands. Widespread damage was reported to rice crops and water-front installations.

Poland Shut Off

WASHINGTON (AP)—Poland's share of the \$300,000,000 United States relief program was cancelled today, on grounds that the Poles have sufficient food, and State Department officials indicated Hungary likewise may be excluded from the program. The action on Poland was taken on recommendation of a survey mission headed by Col. R. H. Harrison. Better crop prospects in Hungary make likely a decision that that country also can get by without American assistance, relief officials said.

Strike Of 2,000 Cables Employees Ended Suddenly

NEW YORK (AP)—Company and union officials announced early today that a strike of 2,000 cable employees of subsidiaries of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, called Tuesday midnight, was ended 2½ hours later on the basis of a 10 cents-an-hour across-the-board wage increase.

It had threatened to disrupt one-third of this country's foreign radio and cable facilities. No additional details of the settlement were made public, but it was announced that "full operations will be resumed as soon as possible."

The union had asked a wage increase of 15 cents an hour. Union spokesmen said the company's best offer prior to the settlement conference was an eight-cent boost. The rates for most classifications had ranged from \$32 to \$70 for a 37½-hour week.

Union officials also had accused the company of ignoring contract provisions by rejecting a union proposal to arbitrate the wage issue.

The I.T. and T. affiliates involved in the strike were the A.B. Cable and Radio Company, operating communications services to South and Central America and the West Indies; the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company with services to Europe, South America, Far East and West coast, and the Commercial Cable Company, with cables to London and Paris.

About two-thirds of U.S. radio and cable traffic with other countries normally is handled by the Radio Corporation of America and the Western Union Cable Company, which were not involved in the dispute.

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Great Lakes Ship Strike Threatens; Mediator Acting

By Canadian Press

Possibility of a strike among Canada's Great Lakes seamen hung in the balance today as deliberations continued in Toronto between shipowners, the Canadian Seamen's Union and a government mediator. Meanwhile, the two companies concerned announced a \$10-month wage boost for all unlicensed seamen aboard their fleets.

The federal mediator, Leonard W. Brockington, K.C. of Ottawa, met officials of the C.S.U. in preliminary discussion Tuesday and was expected to meet today with Capt. R. Scott Miesner, president of Sarnia and Colonial Steamships Ltd. and later with officials of Canada Steamship Lines Ltd. the other company involved.

After Tuesday's meeting, T. G. McManus, national secretary of the C.S.U., said he met Brockington. He was confident the commissioner and the federal Labor Department could avert a strike. He placed the union's views before the mediator and assured full co-operation in the probe into union charges that both companies had violated their agreements.

INTEND TO STRIKE

TORONTO (CP)—The \$10-a-month wage boost announced by two companies for all unlicensed seamen aboard their fleets was branded by T. G. McManus, national secretary of the Canadian Seamen's Union, today as an attempt to "buy off the seamen."

He considered it unusual the companies would offer an increase on the "eve of a strike."

Asked what he meant by "eve of a strike," McManus replied: "That's our intention—to strike."

Regarding the \$10 monthly increase offered by the Sarnia and Colonial Steamships and Canada Steamship Lines, he said the C.S.U. was seeking a boost of \$36 a month.

Polio Death

WINNIPEG (CP)—Manitoba's first death from infantile paralysis was reported here today, a 16-year-old girl succumbing to this disease in Brandon hospital.

A sharp increase in paralysis cases in the province was reported during the last 24 hours, four new cases being reported here and one in Brandon. This brings the Manitoba total for the year to 11.

Building Soon To Go Ahead Says Mayhew

Prior to leaving Ottawa R. W. Mayhew, M.P., asked the Postmaster-General to serve notices to vacate to tenants of the buildings on the site of the new \$2,000,000 post office on Government and Yates Street. He anticipated it would take until the early summer of 1948 to complete the tenants moved out so demolition of the buildings could be started by next June.

Mr. Mayhew returned to the city yesterday afternoon from Ottawa, following proroguing of Parliament Friday.

He said that the plans and specifications for the building now are practically completed. The architect was in Ottawa a short time ago and there are only a few minor details to be cleared up, Mr. Mayhew said.

He doubted if there would be any call for tenders immediately as the government prefers to wait in the hope the building material shortages will clear up so that a firm bid can be made for the construction. "We are anxious to give tenders on any 'cost plus' basis," Mr. Mayhew commented.

He said that in his conversation with the Postmaster-General he stressed the importance of the government proceeding with the building as quickly as possible as Victoria was very short of office accommodation for professional men. "No one else wants to go ahead with construction of any large office building until they see how much space will be available once the Dominion government offices are cleared," he pointed out. At the present time federal offices are using considerable space which would be available for general use once the new building is up.

POSTMASTER APPOINTMENT

No appointment has been made to meet anyone within the Victoria department up to the planned Victoria postmaster, which will be vacant on the retirement of G. H. Hardin this fall, Mr. Mayhew said.

"So far as I am concerned," he commented, "the policy will be to meet anyone within the Victoria department up to the planned Victoria postmaster, which will be vacant on the retirement of G. H. Hardin this fall, Mr. Mayhew said."

Mr. Mayhew estimated that it would take from 15 months to two years to complete the post office once the actual building had started.

Wheat Price May Bog Down Trade Pact For Britain, Russia

LONDON (CP)—The British-Russian trade agreement, a subject of months-long negotiations, was reported today to be bogged down on the price Russia is asking for her wheat, a question in which Canada is acutely interested.

Informed sources said Britain hesitated about signing an agreement setting a price exceeding that paid Canada for fear the Dominion might demand revision of the long-term contract between the two countries. This assures Britain of 100,000,000 bushels this year and next at 12½ a bushel.

Negotiations for the trade pact began some weeks ago and early last week authorities reported to be near a successful conclusion.

"One informant close to the cabinet" emphasized that the projected trade pact was of prime importance for Britain, both economically and politically.

Economically, he said, Britain had counted heavily on Russian wheat to help end bread rationing here. Politically, the informant said, the government viewed the agreement as important on the grounds that it would help force a tie with Russia "when our links with the west are breaking."

AT FRENCH PORT

PARIS (Reuter)—Francis Macdonald, French consul for Ex-Servicemen, speaking for the French government following a cabinet meeting today over the \$500 Jewish immigration being returned from Palestine to France by Britain said: "France will not prevent the immigration of Jewish refugees, neither will she use any means of force or pressure to persuade them to leave the ships if they do not wish to do so."

Arbiter Named For Japs' Claims

OTTAWA (CP)—State Secretary Gibson, announced today that Mr. Justice Henry Irvine Bird of the Supreme Court of British Columbia has been appointed as a commissioner under the War Relocation Act to investigate claims of loss by Japanese-Canadians who were evacuated from the area in 1942 and who are seeking compensation for the loss of their property.

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