

The Daily Colonist.

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All Departments E 4111
AFTER 11:30 P.M. AND BEFORE 8:00 A.M.
News Desk E 4100
Reporters E 4300
Sports E 7000
Social, Island News E 4303
Circulation Mailing Room E 4728

WEATHER FORECAST
Victoria and Vicinity—Overcast in morning, clearing by midday. Winds southerly to 20 m.p.h. Normal temperatures.
Yesterday's Temperature—Maximum, 43, minimum, 31; minimum on the coast, 34.
Yesterday's Humidity—None.
Yesterday's Rain—41 inch.

NO. 304—EIGHTY-NINTH YEAR

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1947

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES

Jews on Offensive After Beating Off Attack on Tel Aviv

Panic-Stricken Residents Flee As Arabs Bomb Hatikva Homes

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (AP)—Taxi-borne Jewish volunteers beat off a two-hour attack by Arab machine-gunners and grenadiers in Tel Aviv tonight and then took the offensive in the fiercest clash since the United Nations voted November 29 to partition Palestine.

Arabs Plan Action At Once

For a time, as the spearhead of Arab fighters drifted into the Hatikva sector of the all-Jewish city, 5000 people fled from their homes in confusion.

Hundreds of Jews in the city responded to the cry of motor-cycle couriers who raced through the streets shouting "Hatikva is in danger. Send help."

Volunteers and fighting squads of Hagana, the Jewish defense army, confronted hordes and sped to Hatikva in time to beat off the Arabs.

Representatives of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria, Trans-Jordan, Iraq and Yemen held the opening session of a conference here and issued a communique afterwards which said:

"The leaders and representatives of the Arab countries met tonight to carry out immediate measures in regard to the Arab League Council decisions taken at its last meeting in Lebanon."

The League said that it has decided to place the military action in safeguard the borders of Palestine, and agreed to supply the Palestine Arabs with weapons, money and other assistance.

The exiled Staff of Jerusalem, spiritual leader of Palestinian Jews, told 1,000,000 Arabs, arrived from Lebanon.

Fireman Killed in Training Accident



SHOWN above is the rear wall of the city fire hall where a 30-foot antenna ladder slipped during routine drills yesterday morning, causing fatal injuries to fireman Leonard Harper, 24, 722 Russell Street, above, and serious injuries to Chief of Police J. A. McNeilan who was passing nearby. Harper died in the Royal Jubilee Hospital on leave after the accident. Chief McNeilan is in St. Joseph's Hospital suffering from a fracture of the pelvis and four vertebrae and a ruptured kidney. Details in the above photograph show the position in which the ladder was standing before it slipped.

Non-Confidence Motion Draws Retort Hinting Early Election Possible

Prime Minister Makes Reply To Bracken in Speech Debate

OTTAWA, Dec. 8 (CP)—John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, tonight in the Commons moved a motion of non-confidence in the Government and promptly drew from Prime Minister Mackenzie King a retort that a general election "may come sooner than my honorable friend expects."

Mr. King's bid at a possible Federal vote came as Mr. Bracken completed a fiery address in the House special debate on moving that the Governor-General be advised that "Your Excellency's advisers do not possess the confidence of the Canadian people."

The Prime Minister said there was no better test of the people's confidence than an election, and recalled that the Government had won the last five by-elections.

"What about the next?" Mr. Bracken asked across the floor.

"The sixth may be a general election and may come sooner than my honorable friend expects," Mr. King snapped.

"I am not saying that it will," the Prime Minister went on, "but what I do say is that my honorable friend, the leader of the Opposition, would be the first surprised and disappointed person were it to come at any time, in the position in which he is, as leader of his party, at the present time."

CLAIMS NEGLIGENT

Mr. Bracken highlighted his address with charges that the Government had been "willfully negligent" of the public interest, had "deliberately" sought to conceal the truth, and "slandered" the people in regard to the C.O.T. strike.

Mr. King said Mr. Bracken had devoted most of his speech to the C.O.T. trade agreement and the import restrictions. Both matters would be fully discussed in the coming two weeks and replies would be made to Mr. Bracken's statements.

The Government had been wrong to give some thought about the heavy drain on United States dollar reserves but the Government's representative at Geneva had stated that there was a good chance of

BULLETINS

Stranded

OSWEGO, N.Y., Dec. 8 (AP)—Six to eight men were believed stranded tonight aboard one of two tugboats driven on rocks in the East Cove of Oswego harbor by high winds and waves of Lake Ontario, the Coast Guard reported.

Gave Invitation

OTTAWA, Dec. 8 (CP)—Prime Minister Mackenzie King said tonight that during his recent trip overseas he had extended a "warmer" invitation to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip to visit Canada soon.

He said the invitation had not been accepted up to the present.

On Hunger Strike

MONTREAL, Dec. 8 (AP)—A 24-hour-old hunger strike by 150 of 1,200 convicts at the Montreal Island Federal Penitentiary against medical treatment and against food was reported tonight by a high official of the prison.

All of the 150 refused to eat today.

1948 City Council Faces Five Major Items—Mayor

Five major items of "unfettered" action must be faced by the 1948 City Council and will have an important bearing on Victoria's financial well-being, Mayor Percy E. George said in a radio address over station CJVI last night.

The mayor reviewed the work of the council during the past year and urged every voter to cast a ballot in the election Thursday.

Of first importance, the mayor said, was the question of financing a general Victoria water board, creating a "yes" vote for a water board, he pointed out, that if the proposal is turned down or if no agreement regarding price can be reached, the city must make arrangements for borrowing at least \$1,000,000 immediately and eventually up to \$3,000,000.

Gravely Injured Police Chief Suffers Injuries in Accident

Leonard Harper, 24-year-old city fireman, 722 Russell Street, was fatally injured last night when a 30-foot antenna ladder slipped during routine drills yesterday morning, causing fatal injuries to fireman Leonard Harper, 24, 722 Russell Street, above, and serious injuries to Chief of Police J. A. McNeilan who was passing nearby. Harper died in the Royal Jubilee Hospital on leave after the accident. Chief McNeilan is in St. Joseph's Hospital suffering from a fracture of the pelvis and four vertebrae and a ruptured kidney. Details in the above photograph show the position in which the ladder was standing before it slipped.

Cold Weather Grips Prairies

WINNIPEG, Dec. 8 (AP)—The coldest weather of the winter so far gripped much of the prairie tonight, delaying trains, slowing city traffic and cutting heavily into the supply of Christmas shoppers.

Northwest American in Northwestern Saskatchewan was the coldest spot with 25 below zero and last night but 25 below zero temperatures were common and meteorologists said little immediate relief was in sight. The coldest spot was in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Holdings State Of Europe Threatening

OTTAWA, Dec. 8 (CP)—Prime Minister Mackenzie King tonight warned the Commons that the situation in Europe now is "more threatening" than at any time since before the outbreak of the World War.

Painting a dark picture of the deadlock in the London meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers, he made the outright statement that the aid of the Communists as directed from Moscow was to keep interest in Continental Europe.

There were indications, he said, that Russia was seeking the establishment of a central Government for Germany, directed from Moscow.

Mr. King said France was in a "deplorable" condition which has been directly to the "Communist influence" which has been dominating Europe.

Describing conditions as "appalling," he said he did not think it was "possible to exaggerate what may occur at this time or almost at any moment as a result of conditions that exist in Europe at the moment."

Strikers Given Ultimatum By Schuman Government

PARIS, Dec. 8 (AP)—President Robert Schuman's Government handed an ultimatum to the Communist-led Confederation Generale du Travail (C.G.T.) tonight, demanding that French workers return to their jobs by Wednesday, and quickly backed up his order with a strong show of force.

The central national strike committee, a solidly Communist group of C.G.T. members including independent, indicated, however, it would attempt to delay the Government by declaring that its strike order still stood. The committee added that steps were being taken to strengthen the strike movement.

MacDonald Hints New Liberal Head May Not Be Acceptable as Premier

On the eve of provincial Liberal convention to choose a new leader to succeed Premier John Hart, radio listeners last night were given a hint by a Progressive Conservative member of the Government that Conservatives may not be ready to accept either of the two candidates as Coalition Premier.

Convention opening in Vancouver today will have choice of either Attorney-General Gordon Wilson or Byron I. Johnson to lead the party. It is reported as unlikely that any late comers will enter the race.

Speaking over CBS last night, Mines Minister R. C. MacDonald refrained from championing either candidate, and alluded that the major political battle within Coalition ranks may come after the Liberal convention has finished its job.

Molotov Lists Part of Price

LONDON, Dec. 8 (AP)—Foreign Minister Molotov today listed part of the price of securing Russian agreement to supplies of Germany-ruled territory for four-power control of the industrially important Ruhr and repeal of the economic rigors of the British and American zones.

He also revealed Russian demand for \$22,000,000 in reparations from Germany.

However, the fact that Molotov seemed saying "no" to say "maybe" all the three Western delegations in the council of Foreign Ministers wondering whether a change in Russian policy on Germany was in the offing.

Molotov was constitutional on another question—that of the so-called powers sharing occupation duties.

Greater Victoria's Chief Magistrates Named by Acclamation



At the close of nominations yesterday, Reeve E. C. Warren of Esquimalt both were returned to office by acclamation. Following for the first time, R. A. Wootton was also elected to that office by acclamation in Oak Bay. Mayor Percy E. George of Victoria, was declared elected by acclamation at the close of nominations in the city last Thursday. It was his third acclamation. Reeve Warren is a veteran in Esquimalt politics, having held the reeve and school board many times. Reeve Wootton has not completed a full year as chief magistrate of Esquimalt. He was elected to that office during the summer following the death of

Appraisals of Property Under Fire at Hearing

KAMLOOPS, B.C., Dec. 8 (CP)—Federal Government appraisals of Japanese property disposed of in coastal areas during the World War came in for criticism today before a Royal Commission headed by Mr. Justice Henry I. Bird.

The commission had before it 1,400 claims against the Dominion Government, the Japanese claiming quadruple compensation, as predicted to amount to about \$9,000,000 when the deadline for filing is reached early in the new year.

J. A. McNeilan, of Vancouver, appearing for the Co-operative Committee of Japanese-Canadians, questioned criticism of the appraisals of property sold in the "interior areas" during the war when the Japanese were moved from coastal districts.

"I will object strongly to Government appraisals of the property as 'not correct,'" he said in his submission.

Previously, Col. John W. G. Hunter of Toronto, Government counsel, argued valuations placed on some of the properties as "grossing."

The first of 36 claimants to be called here, an elderly widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Inada, placed a valuation of \$1,800 on her property—a fruit farm—sold in January, 1945. The Government valuation was \$3,000.

Col. Hunter said the evaluation by Mrs. Inada was "grossing" as neither she nor her son, Kazuo, who also testified, could provide evidence of comparative sales as a means of establishing value of the land and buildings.

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Highs and Lows Of the Weather

	Dec. 8	Dec. 7	Dec. 6
Temperature	31	45	41
Wind	10	10	10
Humidity	70	70	70
Clouds	100	100	100
Precipitation	0.0	0.0	0.0
Relative Humidity	70	70	70
Wind Speed	10	10	10
Pressure	30.0	30.0	30.0
Sea Level	30.0	30.0	30.0
Barometric	30.0	30.0	30.0
Time	12:00	12:00	12:00
High	31	45	41
Low	20	30	26