

My Spirit . . .

PADDING OF HIGHWAY PAYROLLS DISCLOSED

Navigation Opening is Slated Here

Navigation is expected to open here tomorrow with the arrival of three ships which locked through the Sault canal today to open upbound navigation on the Great Lakes. The opening will be almost three weeks later than in 1953, when the first ship arrived March 27.

The coal-laden freighter Carl Meyers went through the Michigan Sault canal at 6:50 a.m. today, to be the first ship through into Lake Huron for the 1954 season. The Meyers, of the T. M. Browning Shipping Company fleet, moved through broken ice in the Sabin lock and headed for Fort William.

The freighter Starbelle locked through up-bound at 6:15 a.m. by way of the Canadian ship canal, travelling light for Fort William and a cargo of grain. The third ship awaiting word to go through today for Fort William was the William H. Wolf, of the Gartland Steamship Company, Chicago. She is also travelling light to pick up a cargo of grain.

Daylight Passage

The three freighters, along with two others, the D. A. Moloney and F. J. Hewitt, of the Browning fleet, which are bound for Duluth, entered the lower St. Mary's river two days previously, but were held here until today because of the Coast Guard regulation restricting upper river traffic until the ice channel had been cleared.

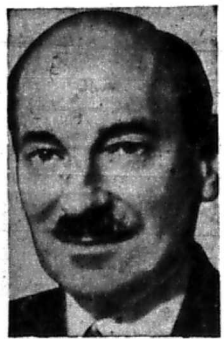
Only daylight passages through the Sault area are being allowed for the time being, because some of the aids to navigation have not yet been placed.

The run from the Sault to Fort William usually requires about 24 hours, which should put the ships at dock here early Good Friday morning. The United States Coast Guard at the Sault reported that a prevailing east wind helped the Meyers through the upper reaches of St. Mary's river, where a channel had been broken by the ice-breaker Mackinaw.

The Mackinaw was used to help the D. C. Everest, of Marathon Paper Mills of Canada Limited, the first ship to leave Fort William, claim the honor of being the first to open navigation at Sault Ste. Marie. It was the first time in years a down-bound ship won the honor. The Everest with



ANEURIN BEVAN



CLEMENT ATLEE

BEVAN QUILTS SHADOW CABINET

U.K. Labor Party Reels Under Split

LONDON (CP)—The opposition Labor party reeled today under a wide-open split touched off by the failure of former prime minister Clement Attlee to oppose the United States-sponsored Pacific defence pact proposal, and West German rearmament.

Aneurin Bevan, leader of the party's left wing and chief contender for Attlee's party chieftainship, walked out Wednesday night from a caucus after resigning from the faction's policy-making "shadow cabinet."

The walkout poses a grave threat to the control of the party by Attlee, deputy leader Herbert Morrison and other moderates. Seven weeks ago Bevan came within two votes of a caucus of defeating Attlee's demand for endorsement of West German rearmament.

The rebel Welshman Wednesday night bitterly accused Britain of "surrendering to American pressure" in the Indo-China talks just concluded between State Secretary Dulles and Foreign Secretary Eden. He expressed deep shock that the Labor party did not immediately rebuke Eden for agreeing to negotiate for an alliance against Communist expansion in Southeast Asia.

Such an alliance, said Bevan, is "tantamount to diplomatic and military encirclement of Republican (Communist) China."

Attlee had asked his party to soft-pedal opposition to government policy on the issue to avoid wrecking the April 26 Geneva conference on Korea and Indo-China. He said Bevan's strong stand could jeopardize those talks.

Today's Weather

Maximum temperature at Fort William during the past 24 hours, 45 degrees at 5 p.m. yesterday.

Minimum temperature at Fort William during the past 24 hours, 33 degrees at midnight last night.

Temperature at 1:30 today, 36 degrees.

Winds, east northeast at 18 miles per hour.

Relative humidity, 92 per cent. Forecast for the Thunder Bay region: Cloudy with intermittent rain, clearing in the evening. A few snow flurries during the afternoon. Little change in temperature.

Winds east at 20 miles per hour, becoming northwest at 20 miles per hour this evening. Low tonight and high tomorrow at the lakehead, 30 and 45 degrees.

Royal Tour Curtailed

KAMPALA, Uganda (Reuters)—Queen Elizabeth's fourth coming visit to Uganda has been curtailed to avoid cross-country road trips because of "the present security situation" in neighboring Kenya.

Fictitious Names On List, Reports Chief Engineer

TORONTO (CP)—Fictitious names appeared on the payrolls in the Fort William division of the highways department during the last two or three years, Charles A. Robeins, chief engineer of maintenance in the department testified Wednesday.

Mr. Robeins, called before the Ontario legislature's select committee investigating alleged irregularities in the highways department, said at least 70 cases of payroll padding and other "minor" irregularities were discovered by his investigators. They involved day laborers working on maintenance projects in the northwestern division.

Before he could answer a question put by Albert Wren (Lib.-Lab.—Kenora) as to the amount of money involved, committee chairman Keiso Roberts (PC—Toronto St. Patrick) suggested Mr. Robeins not give a reply as it might affect any proposed court action.

Mr. Wren agreed, "I just wanted to get on record that there were irregularities," he said.

Mr. Robeins said that in the departmental staff of from 4,000 to 5,000 men "there is always a percentage of those who cause some trouble."

EXPLAINS PROCEDURE

W. A. Clarke, acting chief engineer of the department in explaining the procedure followed in the letting of contracts, said the division engineer can make minor changes in the contracts himself, but if the changes involve several thousand dollars, they must be authorized by the department.

Mr. Wren asked if the changes by the division engineer could involve up to \$5,000. Mr. Clarke said he was not certain. Under further questioning by Mr. Wren, the acting chief engineer said the division engineer could change by 10 to 15 per cent a miscalculation in a contract.

"The chief engineer's job is mainly administrative. He has to (Continued on Page 25, Column 6)

Reds Grab Data at Air Forum

NEW YORK (AP)—Russians have shown up again at an aircraft forum here, buying up exhibition booth literature as well as copies of speeches, technical papers and promotional material. The four-day forum, which ends

Reds Win Hold On Airstrip At Fortress

By LARRY ALLEN

HANOI (AP)—The French high command announced tonight that Communist-led Viet-minh troops had succeeded in entrenching themselves in the northern part of the main airstrip of the fortress of Dien Bien Phu only 2,400 feet from the heart of the bastion.

An earlier announcement said the rebels had been driven off after blowing up the northern end of the airstrip in a night attack. The Communist-led attackers got within 100 yards of the French defenders in the hard-pressed northwest corner of the fortress where the airstrip lies. With Bangalore torpedoes—high explosives on the end of bamboo sticks—they managed to rip up a big portion of the airstrip's steel matting.

The rebels have poured tons of artillery shells onto the field and put up a curtain of anti-aircraft fire to keep planes from landing. The French have repaired the field each time in the hope of eventually being able to get planes in.

Meanwhile, all supplies are being parachuted in by American-supplied transports.

USING HUGE GUNS

The French today revealed for the first time that huge 155-millimeter cannons have been set up inside the fortress along with the 75-mm and 105-mm pieces. All equipment defending the enemy-surrounded fortress had been flown in or dropped by parachute.

The French did not reveal either their own or the enemy's losses in driving off the infiltrating Viet-minh from the airfield.

Aside from this night action at the airstrip, the French reported no other fighting at Dien Bien Phu.

Royal Children Heading South

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the Christian world, are

les Pleased th. Results Mission

ACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—State
Dulles returned to the
States today and said he
was "satisfied" with the re-
sults of his talks in London and
on Indo-China.

ided that he believes the
a conference will advance
of freedom in Southeast

is termed the Indo-China
and the general situation in
"disaster," and "this di-
would be compounded if
China were lost."

s read a statement to re-
on his arrival at the Syr-
airport from Paris en route
hideaway retreat on Duck
in Lake Ontario.

aid a more serious disaster
is prevented if the free na-
are united—that unity of pur-
depends on full understand-

s said the possibility of a
an alliance similar to NATO,
ed for the southeastern Pac-
has been enhanced by Mr.

proposed alliance would aim
in Communist expansion in
Asia and the rest of south-

ON PURPOSE
discussed the matter this