

ARTHUR TAXI DRIVER ROBBED

Prices of U.K. Goods to Drop In N. America

By Stuart Underhill
(Canadian Press Staff Writer)

LONDON, Sept. 19. (CP)—Prices of British goods in North American markets will take a sharp drop as a result of devaluation of the pound. As of last night the pound is worth \$2.80 compared with its previous value of \$4.03.

The change which had been predicted for months—and denied by official sources up to the last minute—was announced to United Kingdom radio listeners last night by Sir Stafford Cripps, chancellor of the exchequer, just returned from financial consultations in Washington with Treasury Secretary Snyder of the United States and Finance Minister Abbott of Canada.

The chancellor himself had confidently and firmly said "no" to reports that devaluation was pending. Last night he said Britain had been forced into it by the continuing drain on sterling-area holdings of gold and dollars.

It was in hopes of checking this drain that the new rate had been fixed. He said it might be raised "if events prove we have gone down a bit more."

Secondly, devaluation was aimed at increasing Britain's power to earn dollars, "that's the only long-term solution for our difficulties—to earn more dollars."

Britain's money move touched off the biggest world-wide round of financial juggling since the dark days of the depression.

Thirteen other countries whose trade is closely linked with Britain immediately announced similar cuts in the value of their currency. These included Greece and Finland suspended dealings in foreign exchange. In Canada, links with trade ties with Britain but whose money follows the U.S. dollar rates. Finance Minister Abbott promised a statement to parliament tonight.

At the same time, the Canadian government ordered suspension in foreign-exchange dealings in 11 Tuesday. That was speculation in Ottawa that the government might devalue the Canadian dollar—officially valued at par with the United States dollar but discounted from six to 10 cents in day-to-day trading on the New York stock market.

Stocks were closed. The London Stock Exchange and those in France, The Netherlands, Greece, South Africa and many other countries were shut down. Foreign exchange trading was forbidden in much of Europe and the sterling area. In London, carried brokers traded stocks and bonds on the sidewalk.

It was the biggest financial turmoil the world has seen since Britain went off the gold standard in 1931. The September Sunday night almost 18 years ago 19 the day.

Prime Minister Attlee held a meeting of ministers during the morning to discuss general business, including arrangements arising out of the devaluation decision.

Bread Price To Climb
Sir Stafford insisted the internal value of the pound would not be altered; that is, wages, savings and prices should retain present levels and purchasing power. The price of bread, however, would have to go up, he said, since most of Britain's wheat and flour comes from North America.

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Hopes brightened today that the toll of death in the Noronic fire would be limited to the 121 known dead. Eighty-four persons were still unaccounted for and authorities believed all or most of these would be reported safe. In the picture above, the queen of the lakes is seen letting sharply as she settles by the stern in Toronto harbor.

121 Dead, 84 Unaccounted for in Noronic Fire

Kellock To Head Noronic Inquiry

OTTAWA, Sept. 19. (CP)—Mr. Justice R. L. Kellock of the supreme court of Canada has been appointed head of a commission to investigate as soon as possible the disaster of the steamship Noronic.

This was announced in the commonwealth by Transport Minister Chevrier, who said he was sure all members would join in extending to the families and relatives of the deceased "our most sincere sympathy in their hour of grief."

Reports Rife Canadian Dollar Next to Decline

OTTAWA, Sept. 19. (CP)—Finance Minister Abbott and his advisors worked today over the government's policy to meet the widespread effects of sterling devaluation.

That policy will be studied by the minister's cabinet colleagues and made public tonight in the Commons.

Ottawa buzzed with speculation and many believed the arbitrarily-fixed external value of the Canadian dollar would be moved from par to what it sells for on the unofficial market—between 90 and 84 cents in New York.

The Commons meets this afternoon and George Drew, Progressive Conservative leader, will be first speaker in the three-speech address. He has been a strong advocate of fixing the Canadian dollar's external value at par.

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Municipal Survey Recommendations

Merger of City Engineering And Works Posts Proposed

The third of a series of articles dealing with the report of the survey of Fort William civic departments conducted by Stevenson and Kellogg Limited, management

consultants. Wm. E. Macdonnell, who is also the manager of the water works, the building inspector, and the short weights and measures inspector.

Separation Urged

TORONTO, Sept. 19. (CP)—As the first formal inquiry into the S.S. Noronic fire disaster opened today, an official of the Canada Steamship Lines said he felt sure that the toll of dead would remain at 121.

"I feel quite sure 121 is the correct total and no more bodies will be found," said Robert Ness, secretary of the C.S.L.'s operating department.

This tallied with figures compiled by The Canadian Press which showed 121 bodies recovered, 479 known survivors and 84 persons unaccounted for, from a total of 684 passengers and crew.

"I do not believe there are any bodies left in the ship," Ness said. "We had divers at work in the ship all day yesterday, and it has been thoroughly searched."

Another company official said earlier he was certain that those unaccounted for to date would turn up safely at their homes in the United States.

26 Bodies Identified

At mid-day, an official of the emergency morgue whang the 121 buried bodies were taken said that 28 had been identified and released. Two had been identified but not released by the coroner. Another five had been tentatively identified.

The enquiry ordered by the Federal Department of Transport was supervised by Captain Wilfred M. Morrison, retiring examiner for masters and mates.

He said that only members of the Noronic's crew will be called as witnesses at today's hearing, which will be held behind closed doors. A full report will be sent to Ottawa and decision regarding a full public enquiry will be made there, he added.

Only three tarpaulin-wrapped charges and blackened forms were taken from the ship Sunday to join the others laid out in the Building of Death at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Then, one or two of the throng of happy holidaygoers on the Noronic's last Great Lakes cruise of the season who had been thought dead reported that they were alive. Sunday night, Dr. W. S. Stanbury, national commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross, voiced his personal opinion that 80 per cent of the number still unaccounted for would be found "safe at home in the United States."

Officials had only hope to cling to as they sought identification of those (Continued on Page 3, Col. 5)

NOOBIE—THE SUNSHINE KID

Robbery Motive in Cold-blooded Crime In City's Outskirts

The bullet-riddled body of Harold Brantford Reid Hamilton, 39-year-old Port Arthur taxi driver, was found along a lonely road just inside the western city limits of Port Arthur early yesterday afternoon.

Police believe the Roach Taxi driver was murdered and that robbery was the motive. The motor of the taxi was still running when the body arrived at the scene at about 2:30 p.m.

The body was found face downward, just south of John Street road, along a road that leads about 100 yds. to farm property owned by Max Cherever and used as grazing land for horses. The body had apparently been hauled about 10 feet off the road by the murderer or murderers. Hamilton's wallet, believed to have contained between \$70 and \$100, was missing, but \$13.50 in bills and change was found in one pants pocket.

Flight Attempted

Blood spots found all around the 1948 model taxi indicated that Hamilton had tried to elude his assailants by dodging around the car—and finally fleeing towards John Street road. The body was found about 225 yards from where the car stood nosed against an unopposed gate leading into the grazing land.

There was no sign of blood inside the car, indicating that the attack and shooting took place on the outside.

The car was called out at about 11 a.m., but no one to date has volunteered that he actually saw the passenger or passengers. Charles Roach, operator of the tax company is convinced that there were two men. A girl who knows Hamilton told him there were two men in the back seat of the car when it headed west on Arthur street around 11 a.m. She waved to Hamilton as the car passed.

The Roach's last stand is on the ground floor in the north-east corner of the Lyceum Theatre building, North Cumberland street. The office is on the second floor and south of the stand.

Charles Roach took the call at about 11 a.m. when a voice over the public address system from the street called "Cab!"

A few minutes later the first car returned. It was Hamilton just returning from a trip to the airport. He reported, was directed to take the waiting passenger or passengers.

"Going out Dawson Road," Hamilton reported as he drove off with his fares.

Report Car Abandoned

He was not seen nor heard from until about 2:15 p.m., when J. W. Shannon, 26 North Rockwood avenue, phoned Mr. Roach to say his son and another boy returned home and mentioned that while playing in the vicinity between 11:30 and 12 noon they

Farmer Is Fined For Killing Eagle

Arvo Aro, a farmer from Strangely township, was fined \$10 and costs or 10 days in magistrate's court this morning for shooting an eagle which was "after his chickens."

Come Warden C. E. Perrie, of Fort William, who apprehended the accused pointed out that section 35 of the Game and Fisheries Act prohibits the shooting of any wild bird with the exception of hawks, owls, crows, crows, blackbirds, starlings and house sparrows.

Pass Lake Man Is Found Dead Under Tractor

Believed dead for several days, the body of Walter Jensen, 52, Pass Lake farmer, was found pinned under a tractor behind school No. 2 on the Silver Island road on Saturday morning, provincial police say.

The discovery was made by Jacob Engberg and P. Anderson, Pass Lake mail carrier—and reported at 12:30 noon Saturday to the authorities. Their curiosity aroused because Jensen had failed to call for his mail, the two men set out to make inquiries.

Police said the body was found pinned between the tractor and a sideways log. The machine had toppled over crushing Jensen. It was presumed the fatal accident occurred some time on Tuesday, Sept. 13. The body was found just before noon on Saturday. It was said Jensen was hauling logs with the tractor when he struck a stump, causing the machine to turn over.

Born in Denmark, Jensen, who was single, had resided for the past 24 years in Pass Lake, making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Jorgen Brohm. He was last seen on Tuesday.

Surviving are two sisters and four brothers in Denmark. The funeral will be held at 12:30 noon Wednesday from Sargent's funeral chapel to the Danish Lutheran church, Pass

Law the same time police received a call from John Hautamaki, of 60 North Windermere who said he saw the car parked against the farm gate, abandoned with motor running.

A Roach car, driven by Carl Rosch, son of the owner, set off for the scene and arrived just before 10:30. Stravson and Const. Blawie in five city police cars. The taxi motor was running. Nobody was around. A quick search of the area disclosed the body of the murdered driver lying face downward at the side of the road some 200 feet north of the car.

Inspector James Hutchison of the Port Arthur police who is conducting the investigation said the back of Hamilton's hands were scratched possibly when the body was being dragged to the side of the road.

Police think a fight took place between the driver and assailants just outside the car. There was blood on the ground.

An autopsy performed on the body later at Sargent's funeral home by Dr. A. E. Allen, provincial pathologist revealed a total of seven bullet wounds.

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Canadian Gold Stocks