

Port Arthur Man Facing Charge In Roads Probe

Improvements To Cost \$75,000

Approval for installation of a new burner and other improvements to the incinerator to cost about \$75,000 in all was given the city by two members of the Ontario Municipal Board at a hearing in the Council Chambers this morning.

The OMB representatives, William Greenwood and C. F. Nunn, both of Toronto, approved doubling of the capacity of the incinerator, and repairs to the present furnace, after hearing representations from Mayor Robinson. Nearly all members of Council attended the hearing.

BUILDING LOTS

Also approved were new residential subdivisions which will provide about 170 building lots.

The new housing areas are city-owned property on Hodder Avenue south of the present Current River housing development, and a group of about 55 lots owned by Gordon Elliott and located north of Red River Road near Clarkson Avenue. Transfer of the land from undivided to residential lots was a routine change under the zoning by-law.

Towards noon, the OMB members entered informal discussions with the Mayor and Council on the 1954 program of works, which was not on the regular agenda of their session here. They also planned to look over several streets in the city.

Mr. Nunn and Mr. Greenwood could not say when a decision on the program might be rendered so that work could begin. If previous experience is followed, however, it is likely the city will hear from the Board within two or three weeks.

The Board members will sit at Fort William this afternoon on zoning bylaw amendments, and Wednesday on other items. They will return to Toronto Wednesday night.

Unemployment a Burden, May Be Cause of Break-Ins

Unemployment here this spring is putting "a very heavy strain" on the city's welfare department and conceivably might be one cause of a rash of break-ins last weekend, Council was told Monday night.

Ald. A. J. Hinton, chairman of welfare, said his office had received "threats that something like the break-ins would take place." "We are concerned in the welfare offices — some people who have used up their unemployment insurance are near starving. We must get the federal government to take the load off our necks."

Mayor Robinson said the Board of Works had already discussed rotation of its part-time laboring staff as one solution to the situation.

He urged that Council seek Municipal Board approval Tuesday morning for a \$343,000 local improvements program so work could begin immediately. An additional 40 men would be needed once the

program of petition work got under way. The works item is not on the Board agenda but he intended to ask special permission to put it on, he said.

Ald. Bill Braysahw, works chairman, said his committee has been discussing a system of rotating laborers two weeks on the job, and two weeks off, to provide jobs for a larger number of men.

He noted, however, that a recent national magazine article pointed out that a man with no more unemployment insurance benefits regains them after 45 days' work.

In view of this, he said, the committee will discuss the rotation system again. If the statement were true, it would be wiser to rotate employees every 45 days. (The magazine article also disclosed that at least one city has already undertaken a scheme like this).

"We've got to do something," Ald. Hinton agreed.

France Willing to Discuss Plan Strongly Opposes Red Proposals

By EDDY GILMORE

GENEVA (AP) — A French spokesman said today that France is willing to discuss the Communist plan for an Indo-China armistice along with its own plan, but declared strong opposition to major provisions of the Communist proposal.

The spokesman made it clear that France has no intention of breaking off the Indo-China talks in Geneva despite the apparent East-West deadlock.

He explained France's position at a press conference as the National Assembly in Paris prepared to debate the government's policy on Indo-China.

He obviously was concerned over headlines which appeared in some Paris newspapers on the eve of the debate, indicating that the Geneva negotiations were regarded by the French as hopeless.

Some observers think the new French reaction to the Communist terms represents a softening of their position, but it is clear that the main provisions of the Vietnam plan are far from acceptable to France.

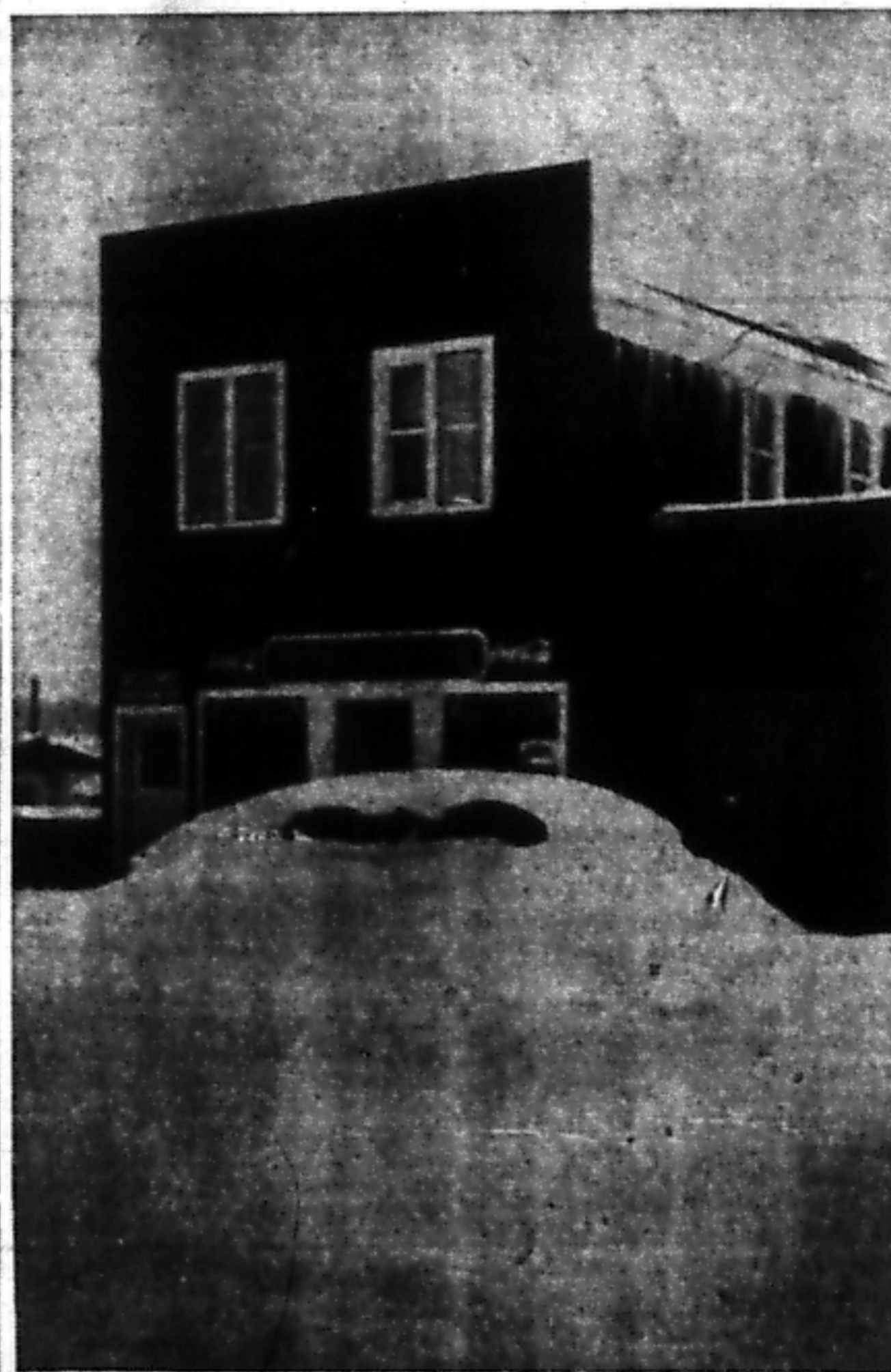
These reactions came as the Indo-Chinese talks were in recess. One Western source said they might not be resumed before Friday. The Korean phase of the conference, meanwhile, was resumed with a meeting of the 19 participating countries.

FEEL TALKS DOOMED

Although Western delegates agree that there must be full discussion of the detailed armistice proposals, some already are talking about writing the Geneva conference off as a complete failure on both Indo-China and Korea.

Three District Accidents, Two Women, Man Injured

Two women and a man were seriously injured in two of three motor vehicle accidents that occurred in the district, Provincial Police said today. The women were passengers in a car that went out of



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

ALTHOUGH SPRING was officially here a long time ago, this car was still in the grip of Old Man Winter when the picture was taken on the Main Street of Beardmore on May 4. The car is owned by Thomas Borock,

who had to heave quite a pile of snow aside before he could take his car out for an alleged spring-time drive. Noted weather sages are predicting that while the fine weather is late in coming, when it does arrive, it will be an almost overnight change.

Paving Secondary To Sewage, Water

Paving took a back seat to the more urgent problems of supplying sewer, water and new streets to outlying areas Monday night when the Board of Works recommended to Council that the 1954 paving program consist of only two projects.

Slated for asphalt topping are North High Street, from Red River Road to Van Norman Street; and the downtown Mall between Arthur and Park Streets adjacent to the New Ontario Hotel.

The two jobs must still be approved by the Ontario Municipal Board, but in view of the size of the paving program, it is likely they will pass.

Overshadowing paving work is the big, \$343,000 sewer, water, sidewalk and opening and grading program, all of it petitioned for.

Turned down, for this reason, was a traffic and safety request that Cameron Street be widened and repaved. The works report pointed out that the existing storm sewer must be re-laid, and this should be done in conjunction with the paving; together, the two projects

were too much to undertake this year.

Ald. William Braysahw, works chairman, also said that Cameron Street was a "dead-end" thoroughfare since it ended at Algoma Street, and so was of little use in relieving east-west traffic.

His committee was studying this problem, he added, and had instructed the City Engineer to prepare rough plans for improvement to Dawson Street, and investigate the feasibility of running a viaduct extending Dawson from Algoma to Court under the Algoma Street bridge at McViears Creek. When these plans are completed, the merits of Cameron and Dawson as east-west arteries can be compared, and improvements to them at that time might be included in a supplementary program.

Approved to relieve flood conditions (Please turn to Page 2, No. 3)

Lay New Charges At Fort William In Roads Case

New charges arising out of alleged Ontario highways irregularities were laid at Fort William Monday afternoon against Cameron W. Taylor, of 110 Regent Street, general superintendent of Tomlinson Bros. and Arthur M. Mills, former divisional engineer here for

W. S. Tomlinson Named in Fraud

W. S. Tomlinson, Port Arthur contractor named in a department of highways fraud charge, is returning to the Lakehead from a business trip to British Columbia, but his arrival date is not known, it was learned today.

T. P. Callon, solicitor for Tomlinson Brothers, said he talked to Mr. Tomlinson by telephone Monday. The contractor, at the west coast, where his company has several jobs, for the past two weeks, said he was returning home as soon as it could be arranged.

"It's simply a matter of transportation," Mr. Callon said. He did not know the arrival date yet. Provincial Police reported they had not received word of when he would reach home.

TORONTO, (CP)—The Ontario government has cracked down in its biggest action to date in the investigation of alleged irregularities in road-building contracts.

The attorney-general's department Monday issued warrants charging 11 men with conspiring to defraud the government. They include a federal highways inspector, a top official in the provincial highways department and officials of three contracting companies.

The warrants brought to 15 the number of persons charged since the investigation started. Minor highway employees, senior department officials and contractors have been arrested in the government's crackdown.

The companies have done more than \$17,000,000 in highway work for the province during the last five years.

The federal highways inspector charged is R. F. Petursson, whose job was to supervise construction in the Fort William area of sections of the trans-Canada highway to which the federal government contributed 50 per cent. It was the first time a federal government employee had been accused in connection with the alleged irregularities.

Cecil N. Nelson, suspended chief engineer and No. 3 man in the highways department, was also charged Monday.

COMPANIES CHARGED

The companies and their officials charged are: Standard Paving Limited and E. Birdsall, vice-president; Tomlinson Brothers Limited and its subsidiary Tomlinson Brothers (Eastern) Limited and W. S. Tomlinson, vice-president; and C. W. Taylor, superintendent; Bergmann Construction Company Limited and Walter Bergmann, president, and John A. West, company superintendent.

Those under arrest now include two highways employees who had not been previously named as involved in the irregularities. They are William Bredin, an instrument clerk in the Huntsville division whose superior, Donald S. Patterson, division engineer, was suspended but not charged until Monday and Harry Phipps, retired engineer at Fort William.

The firms, whose officials now are charged, are three of nine companies whose books had been seized by provincial police two months ago. Government officials said Monday it is not likely that any further warrants will be issued.

Eight of the 11 men charged Monday have been arrested. Petursson is federal supervising engineer at Victoria, B.C. The warrants for W. S. Tomlinson, who lives in Fort William, and Birdsall have not yet been served.

HELD AT LAKEHEAD

Phipps and Arthur M. Mills, former division engineer at Fort Wil-



W. S. TOMLINSON
... faces charge

liam, who is named in three charges, were arrested at Fort William Monday. The former division engineer has already been committed to higher court on charges of trust and fraud. The charges are slated to be heard at the fall assizes in Fort William.

Nelson was arrested at Port Hope Bergmann and West at Pickering, Patterson and Bredin at Huntsville and Taylor at Fort William. Nelson, West, Bergmann, Patterson and Bredin appeared before a justice of the peace in Whitby Monday and were released on bail ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

Mills and Taylor appeared in police court in Fort William Monday and were remanded to May 31. Bail of \$5,000 was continued for Mills and bail for Taylor was set at \$5,000.

Those charged at Standard Paving will appear in a Toronto court; Tomlinson in Fort William and Bergmann and Nelson in Whitby.

Four sets of irregularities were charged against the companies and highway employees; three in Fort William and one in Huntsville. The Standard and Tomlinson companies are involved in the Fort William charges and Bergmann in the Huntsville division of the department.

WHY UNREVEALED

A source close to the investigation said the amount involved in the charges covered by the warrants was not revealed because the