Highlights of the News

Reconversion In Canada

The main points of Reconstruction Minister C. D. Howe's press conference in Ottawa last week are:

Reconversion of Canadian industry from war to peacetime activity is about 50 percent. complete.

There are approximately 223,000 unemployed in Canada today, but many of these are seasonal workers and improvement is confidently looked for.

Coal control is to be removed in the spring although the outlook is still bad.

Canada will not operate any lines of ships. The ships built during the war are being sold for private operation.

The black spot in the Canadian situation is steel. The strike in the United States is beginning to affect house building, causing a shortage of nails.

Public works, with a few exceptions such as the development of electric power in Ontario and British Columbia, are being deferred to concentrate all labor and materials on house building. The Housing Department has built 25,000 houses for war workers and returned veterans and it is hoped to build 10.000 to 15,000 a year.

Chances for new automobiles for the general user this year are poor. Present automobile priorities will remain in force until all priority needs are met.

$100,000,000 To Netherlands

Canada has extended another $100,000,000 credit to the Netherlands for the purchase of Canadian goods and foodstuffs in addition to $25,000,000 loaned under an agreement signed last year.

The loan was the second announced in the last four days. Last week Finance Minister Ilsley disclosed the signing of an agreement under which Canada will extend a $60,000,000 credit to China for similar purchases.

0 Administration Change

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal, hitherto under military administration, have come under civil administration of the British Government in India.

The islsands, a chain lying about 300 miles off the Malay Peninsula, were overrun by the Japanese in 1942 and reoccupied by British forces last October Their total area is 3,200 square miles with a population of 34,000.

3 Big U.S. Cities Crippled

Three of the United States largest cities were tied up last week by striking of approximately 16,500 workers that shut off fuel and electricity and halted transportation. Nearly 13,000,000 persons live in the affected areas.

Utility workers of the Duquesne Light Company system struck in a walkout which threatened to cut off essential electric power for more than 1,500.000 persons in Pittsburgh and a surrounding 817-square mile area.

In New York City, a strike of 3,500 tugboat workers forced Mayor William O'Dwyer to virtually close down the United States biggest city and set up a virtual state of martial law.

In Philadelphia, a strike of 9,655 transit workers halted all public transportation for the second consecutive day.

Riots In India

Four persons were killed and at least 37 injured in Calcutta when riots flared up for the second straight day.

Police fired on crowds demonstrating against a seven-years' prison sentence passed on Capt. Abdul Ashid, former member of the Japanese sponsored Indian National Army.

New British Colony

Sarawak on the island of Borneo, for sixty years an independent state under British protection has been added to the British Empire. It is being ceded to Britain by Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, 72-year-old "White Rajah"—great-nephew of the Englishman who, a century ago, was given Sarawak by a native ruler for aid in suppressing a revolt.

Russia's New 5-Year Plan

Generalissimo Stalin, in a pre-election speech, announced a new five-year plan, the Soviet Union's third, to rebuild war-devastated areas.

Its main task is to restore the areas that suffered. to restore the prewar level and then considerably surpass it.

Particular attention will be devoted to raising the standard of life of the working people by systematically reducing the cost of production of all goods.

Stalin called for Russia to produce 50,000,000 tons of pig iron a year, 60 000,000 tons of steel, 500,000,000. tons of coal and 60,000,000 tons of oil.

Stalin also told his constituents that "wars could be avoided if there was a possibility of a fair distribution of raw materials and export markets."

Homma To Die

Lt.-Gen. Masaharu Homma has been sentenced to be shot, convicted by a militay tribunal of war atrocity charges, including the infamous Bataan death march.

Strict order prevailed at the sentencing. Spectators, including a large number of Filipinos who had lived in the area during Homma's occupation, were carefully searched before being admitted to the grounds.

Homma was led quickly away after the conviction and sentence was pronounced.

U.K.—U.S. Air Treaty

An Anglo-American air agreement signed in Hamilton, Bermuda, last week provides for full and free development of international air transportation.

The agreement, which takes effect immediately, covers the regulation of fares, removal of restrictions on the number of flights by civil airlines, and the setting-up of international routes.

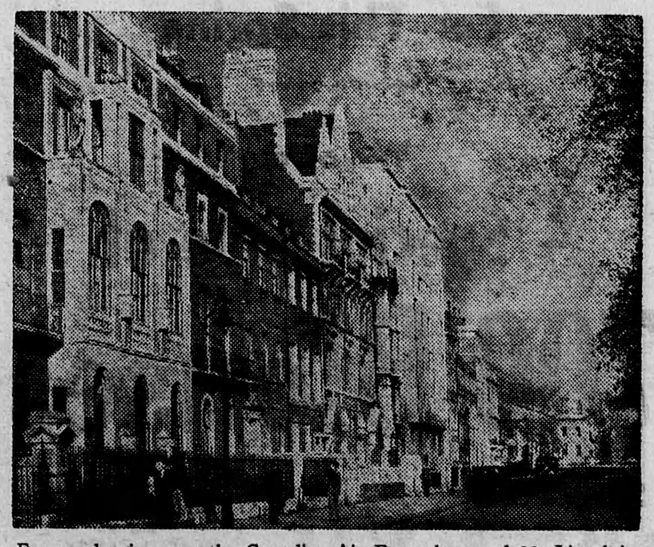
Eire To Help

Prime Minister Eamon De Valera announced that Eire would match or increase her last year's 3,000,000-pound food aid to hungry Europe and take steps to reduce her own consumption.

C. M. H. Q. HOCKEY TEAM

The C.M.H.Q. hockey team known as "The Maple Leaves" is shown at Wembley, Middlesex, England. Back row, left to right: A. Mallard, Hamilton, Ont.; Major D. Telford, Vancouver; Jim Sims, Sudbury, Ont.; Alex Stewart, Timmins, Ont.; Jack Portland, Collingwood, Ont.; Gordie Bruce, Ottawa, Ont.; Bud Poile, Port Arthur, Ont.; Charlie Phillips, Toronto, Ont.; R. O. Jones, Toronto, Ont.; Lt. M. Teeples, Port Arthur, Ont.; Front row kneeling, left to right: Johnny Tailor, Vancouver, B. C.; Eddie O'Keefe, Olds, Alta.; Les Colvin, Oshawa, Ont.; Babe Gresko, Toronto, Ont.; Hub Macey, Le Pas, Man.; and Bill Booth of Montreal, Que.

"CANADA WALK"



For nearly six years the Canadian Air Force has used 20, Lincoln's Inn Fields as headquarters. To commemorate the close ties between the Borough of Holborn and the R.C.A.F. during the war, the pavement on the north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields will be named "Canada Walk."

MOVIE STAR SPENDS HOLIDAY IN CANADA

Norma Shearer is greeted by her aunt, Mrs. M. L. Peiler, and cousin, Col. M. F. Peiler, O.B.E., E.D., at Dorval Airport, when the Montreal-born film star arrived from California on her way to spend a month's hodiay at Mont Tremblant.

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