With Our Weekly Newspaper Representatives Overseas

First Reference Received by Mail from Sgmn. R. P. Medman and C. E. Allen, Official Delegates of the CWNA., Now in England with the Canadian Press Party Sponsored by the United Kingdom Information Branch

THE BEAVER CLUB
By C. E. ALLEN, Jr.

While Canadians at home know that the Beaver Club near Trafalgar Square in London is doing a fine job for the Canadian troops, there are few who realize just how far this club does go to make life for the Canadian soldier on leave a very real pleasure. In this article we want to tell you something of the good work it is doing.

Its Founder

The club was founded by the Right Honorable Vincent Massey, High Commissioner for Canada, and Mrs. Massey, both of whom are actively interested in the welfare of the Canadian soldier. Among those who put money into the project are such men as Ernest H. Cooper, who fought with the Canadians in the last war and was very much interested in this effort to provide a place where Canadians could meet in London when on leave, and where their interests could be looked after as they should be. Mr. Cooper, who is head of Gillet Industries, put £10,000 into the club as did Charles A. Banks. Lord Beaverbrook, another great Canadian and publisher of the Daily Express, added another £5,000; the Canadian Red Cross £3,748, while the Y. M. C. A. provides the management and stands ready to contribute the operating expenses. Other Canadians who contributed varying amounts compile a lengthy list and we will not attempt to name them, but it can be said they have made a contribution to a project that stands high in the estimation of the Canadian soldier.

1,200 Visitors Daily

One can easily visualize the extent of the work carried on by this organization when they realize that some 10,000 Canadians pass through this club daily. Over the week-end it is estimated that this figure runs to 14,000. It takes some 800 volunteer workers to cater to the needs of this army of men for the club is open day and night, operating on a 24-hour basis. Here the boys arrange to meet their pals from the various units who may be obtaining their leave at the same time. Here they pick up messages from their friends and mail from home. The reading rooms offer them the latest papers from home. The writing rooms provide them with material and a comfortable place to write letters; the billiard rooms provide them with a place to while away an hour or a day; comfortable chairs in a large bright lounge room attract those who tire of going places or are recovering from the previous days sight-seeing tour—for London has much to show the visitor despite the punishment it took during the Blitz; the wash rooms provide them with a place to clean up and free shaving equipment is provided so that the boys do not need to carry a shaving kit with them while on a holiday. Several sections of the building are given over to providing them with food. The queues are endless. In our tour we visited the kitchens where they prepare the food and the odor was such as would tempt anyone to eat. The quality and quantity of the dinner being served for about 33 cents caused one to marvel that it could be produced so cheaply for outside the Beaver Club the same meal could not be obtained for less than five shillings, about $1.25, if obtainable at all in any high class London hotel. Inspecting another queue we found them being served delicious pancakes smothered with Canadian maple syrup and doughnuts hot from the machine which turned out about 1,100 daily—all that the flour quota would permit. In another room sandwiches were provided—but in each section there was an endless queue and the volunteer workers seldom enjoyed an idle moment. There was no need to ask the boys what they thought of it all for it was clearly evident on their faces that the Beaver Club was providing them with a home away from home. The pleasant manner in which the volunteer workers went about their tasks added a great deal to the atmosphere of the club.

102,000 Canadians Registered

At the Information desk we were rather surprised to learn that over 102,000 Canadians had registered at the club. As each man makes use of the club he is expected to register his name and address with the club. No record is kept of succeeding visits. Through these records the boys can learn quickly if their friends have arrived from Canada and visited London and the address permits them to make quick connections with their friends.

Bed Lodging

The club does not run a rooming house, but it does add in finding beds for those who need them. Bed and breakfast may be secured for two shillings or about fifty cents, which is very reasonable indeed. On Saturday night the overflow crowd is hard to handle, but as a last resort the air raid shelters in the tubes are used and a comfortable bed is provided and canteen service available.

Weekly Papers Wanted

When Manager W. H. Spearman and his assistant manager A. L. Ashton, discovered that their visitors were editors of weekly newspapers they were quick to point out the need of more Canadian weekly newspapers on the reading racks. Many daily papers across Canada are represented and Canadian weeklies can help to make life more pleasant for these boys by providing them with the latest news of their home town. A special file for weeklies will be set up as soon as a sufficient number reach the club. Each paper will have a file of its own and the boys will be able to go back through the file for months with a great deal of enjoyment. In this way the weeklies can do much to help maintain the morale of the boys who have been away from home for a long time.

FLOW NEW FOREST AFTER 900 YEARS

BROCKENHURST, England (CP)—For the first time in 900 years, parts of the New Forest in Hampshire will be plowed, temporarily enclosed, and sown with crops under government direction.

A total of 1,000 acres will be turned up in eight areas. Approximately 150 will grow potatoes, the remainder will cultivate corn. If the experiment is successful another 1,000 acres will be devoted to crops. The work will be carried out by the Hampshire War Agricultural Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The enclosure will be limited to three seasons. After two seasons of crops, the land will be grassed down to grazing for cattle and horses. Grazing will be controlled while the pasture becomes established, then the fences will be removed to make it open space.

The scheme is regarded as a first step towards supplying the area with home-grown foodstuffs and in checking the decline of livestock through lack of grazing grounds.

The Week at OTTAWA

By DOUGLAS GREEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) — Reports given parliament by various ministers and submissions before the Commons Reconstruction and Social Security Committee indicate the variety of measures designed to better the lot of Canadians in post-war years to which attention is now being given.

The future of ex-servicemen and women, the provision of medical care for all Canadians under health insurance and improvements in education designed to ensure that equal opportunities are given all children are among the topics which have been or now are being discussed.

Pensions Minister Mackenzie said at a meeting of the chief medical officers of his department in Ottawa that it is "fairly well ahead" in its plan for the rehabilitation of discharged service personnel after the war, and from the discharges of the present day is learning "the problems with which we must be prepared to deal in the future."

In a brief presented to the Commons Reconstruction Committee the Federation recommended, among other proposals, that the status of treasury be raised and its salaries improved and that a federal commission be appointed to study national unity and make recommendations for welding Canada into a national unit.

Whether or not the government will act upon the recommendation regarding the appointment of such a commission remains to be seen, but Prime Minister Mackenzie King has in the past referred to the necessity of fostering such unity, and only recently cited the removal of a cause of friction as one of the reasons for the government's decision to relax restrictions upon the domestic output of beer.

Air Transport

Emphasis has been given the important place Canada is destined to occupy among the leading nations in the post-war era by Mr. King's announcement of new appointments pending in the diplomatic service and, particularly, Munitions Minister Howe's statement in the House of Commons defining the Canadian government's policy on domestic and international air transport.

By this statement, Mr. Howe put Canada in the position of being the first among the nations of the world to publish a detailed plan for international control of air traffic.

He said the Dominion had proposed to the nations the creation of an "international air transport authority" to license and regulate air traffic between them, and, referring to civilian aviation, said the monopoly of airways by railways must go and that steps will be taken to divest Canada's railways of the ownership of air lines.

He added that so far as international aviation is concerned the Canadian government believes the Dominion's interest lies "in a liberal course of co-operation with other nations."

New Export Lamb

Shipments of lamb are now being made to the United Kingdom, Agriculture Minister Gardiner announced last week. The shipments are in addition to bacon and beef exports already being provided in large quantity.

The Canadian Meat Board will purchase only surpluses which develop in the Dominion and officials state that no estimate of probable shipments is possible at present. If total shipments of lamb in a year amount to 3,000,000 the total would be considered satisfactory.

Mr. Gardiner said that the prices which the board are offering at seaboard for lamb carcasses meeting export specifications are equivalent to the following return per 100 pounds in various zones across the Dominion: Montreal, $24.75; Ontario, $25.00; Winnipeg, $23.50; Saskatchewan, $23.25; Alberta, $23.00.

These prices will advance by 50 cents per 100 pounds on March 30, with a similar and final increase effective on and after April 24.

In one broad statement in the House of Commons, Munitions Minister Howe defined the Canadian Government's policy on both domestic and international air transport.

The Dominion scheme would give all countries a chance to share in a world plan, would provide new freedom of the air by agreement and would divorce Canadian airlines from ownership and operation by railways. Also, to assure Canadian airlines a supply of equipment after the war, rights to manufacture in Canada a four-engined transport aircraft believe to be the best in sight for the next five years have been obtained. The plane is believed to be the Douglas DC4 and it is believed it will be made at the government owned Victory Aircraft plant at Malton, Ont.

GOT NAZI IN BACKYARD

LONDON (CP) — For 18 months Charles Russel was in the Army. He figured that he'd surely see a German—over his gunsights. He didn't. He was invalided out of the army and the next thing he saw was a Nazi airman who parachuted down into Russel's backyard.

SPRING HARVEST IN FULL SWING

All winter long our streams and marshes have lain silent and still under the grip of ice and snow. But with the approach of spring these quiet places are becoming the scene of intense activity. Thousands of trappers are beginning the spring harvest of Canada's $2,500,000 muskrat crop.

Clad in warm clothes and hip boots the hardy trapper braves the raw winds and cold waters in the early morning to discover what lady luck has brought to his trapline. This is the first step in a chain of events which will result in warm and beautiful coats for my lady of fashion.

The fur of the muskrat is soft and durable and the furrier presents it to the public in many pleasing forms. It is used extensively in its natural, undyed state. One of the most popular processed forms is known as Hudson Seal. A special exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum shows the various steps by which the long-haired, brown pelt of the muskrat is converted into short-haired, glossy black Hudson Seal. Muskrat is also processed to resemble other furs such as mink, or fur seal. However, the problems of processing and fashion are for the furrier. They do not concern the busy trapper as he harvests his spring crop, racing, not as the farmer does against the advent of frost and snow, but against the approach of warm weather which renders the pelt of the muskrat unprime and commercially inferior.

MEN OVER SEAS

MELBOURNE (CP)—When W. Gurton was government architect in Hong Kong he designed a prison. Now his wife in Australia has received word from him saying he is interned in it.

PRICE CONTROL AND RATIONING INFORMATION

Topical questions consumers ask of the Wartime Price and Trade Board this week are answered by the central Ontario Consumer Branch Committee.

Q.—I have a six roomed house which is now vacant. It was rented at $16.00 per month. The tenants left it in such bad condition I will have to spend considerable money repairing it. It would not pay me to re-rent at this price. How can I get a higher rental for it?

A.—If you are planning to repair the house and feel that you should have a higher rental, application for increased rental must be filed with the Rentals Administrator of the board. . . . Their appraiser will call and investigate your case. . . . . He will make a decision as to whether or not you may increase the rent.

Q.—I sent my child to the grocers to purchase butter and tea and he refused to sell it as the child had loose coupons. I do not like to trust the ration books with a child. Was my grocer correct?

A.—Your grocer is quite correct, it is illegal to deal in loose coupons, loose coupons are invalid.

Q.—Last week I was charged 25c for a 2 lb. tin of corn syrup. Was this price too high?

A.—Yes, this price seems high for this product. . . . as you have given us the name of the dealer and quoted us many of his prices we have passed your complaint along for investigation. Price ceiling must be maintained.

Q.—I want to sell my automobile. I do not like near a dealer. Where would I find the correct price?

A.—There is a ceiling price on all sales of used cars, this price, of course, depends on the year and model of the car, telephone or write the nearest regional office of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and they will give you this information, give all the details in your letter.

MOSCOW (CP) — There are now 300 machine and tractor stations in nine liberated regions of the Ukraine. Trains are running on all the main railways.

To-day, as always, the "Salada" label is your guarantee of a uniform blend of fine quality teas.

"SALADA" TEA

CLIP THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

RATION BOOK 4
—WHEN AND WHERE YOU GET IT

Distributing Centres will not be open on all days of next week. Make sure that you know exactly what days and hours the Distributing Centre you intend to go to will be open. Help the volunteer workers by following instructions carefully.

HERE IS WHAT YOU DO TO GET YOUR NEW BOOK

1 Fill in the application card—the first post-card in your Ration Book 3. *Do this at home.* The application card is printed in red and is numbered RB-91. DO NOT USE ANY OTHER CARD. Follow the method shown.

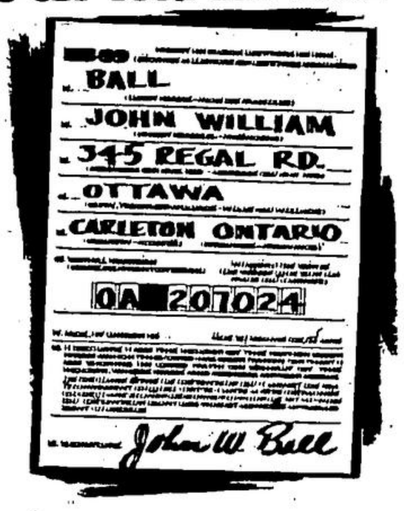
2 Be sure to PRINT clearly, accurately and completely all information required on the card—including the COUNTY in which you live.

3 Sign at the bottom with your usual signature. Persons of 16 years or over must sign their own cards. Cards of persons under 16 years must be signed by parents or guardians.

4 Applicants must bring their Ration Books with them to the Distributing Centre. Children under 16 may not apply for Ration Books for themselves or for other members of the family.

5 Do not detach application card from your Ration Book. This must be done by an official at the Distributing Centre. If accidentally detached, bring the application card along with your Ration Book.

6 ARMED FORCES: All members of the Armed Forces, whether on permanent subsistence or not, will obtain their Ration Cards from their own Units.



7 APPLYING FOR BOOKS FOR OTHERS: Any responsible member of a household may apply for Ration Books on behalf of other members of the household, or for neighbours unable to apply in person, providing Ration Book 3 with properly filled in application card is presented.

On presentation at a Distributing Centre of your Ration Book 3, with properly completed application card, you will be issued your new Ration Book 4; and your Ration Book 3 will be returned to you.

WARNING: Be sure you get your new book while your Distributing Centre is open next week. Otherwise, you will not be able to obtain your new book until April 17.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTING CENTRES

Addresses	Dates	Hours
TOWN HALL, Acton	March 29th, 30th, 31st Saturday, April 1st	From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. From 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Books will also be issued at the following plants: Beardmore & Co., Wool Combing Corporation, Sherry Glove Co., Mason Knitting Co. and Baxter Laboratories

Halinafax—Rev. A. O. W. Foreman March 29th and 30th From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

RATION ADMINISTRATION
THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD

Mrs. Churchill Sells "Aid to Russia" Flag

So that the Prime Minister should not miss buying a flag for her "Aid to Russia" Flag Day in London Mrs. Churchill sold him one genuinely in the drawing room of 10, Downing Street.

Advertising Pays Dividends!