

The Week at OTTAWA

By DOUGLAS GREEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—Whether another session of parliament will be held before dissolution was one of the principal questions engaging the attention of political observers here last week.

It was rumored that a session would be held this month whether or not Defence Minister McNaughton, government candidate in the Grey North by-election, was sent to the House of Commons.

No indication was given when parliament was prorogued last Wednesday that another session would be held before its five-year term expires April 17. Some members expect, however, that a general election will be held in April, and others hold to the opinion that Prime Minister Mackenzie King's administration will go to the country in June.

Parliament is required to meet at least once a year, though the government is not legally required to fix an election date either after dissolution or the expiration of the life of parliament by lapse of time. Hence it is necessary only to hold a session this year and elect a new parliament in time for a session in 1946.

Division of the political side of the external affairs department into three sections—American and Far-Eastern, British Commonwealth and European affairs and special political affairs—is an indication of the complex duties which have come under its jurisdiction during the war years.

The political side deals with matters of policy and relations with other countries. It is supervised by Hume Wrong, who holds the rank of associate under-secretary of state. He formerly held rank of assistant secretary of state and headed the Commonwealth and European division. Dr. Hugh Keenleyside, now Canadian ambassador to Mexico, formerly held equal rank with Mr. Wrong and headed the American and Far Eastern division.

An Important Market

Importance of the Latin American market to Canada's post-war economy is emphasized by the fact that the trade department, which now has representatives in Columbia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico City, has under consideration the establishment of additional offices.

It is noteworthy that some of the wealthier Latin American countries have built up enormous reserves in the dollar area, and that at the end of 1943 the gold and foreign exchange reserves of 16 of these countries amounted to almost \$3,000,000,000, double the 1942 total.

MacKinnon has said previously, Canadian goods enjoy an excellent reputation in Latin America.

The external affairs department announced last week that while the official ban on trading between France and Canada will be lifted shortly, actual trading will be "all but impossible" for some time to come because of a shortage of shipping and foreign exchange problems. In lifting the trading restrictions without waiting for the possibility of actual resumption of trade, the Canadian government is following a different course from that taken by the United Kingdom and the United States, which prefer to wait for conditions under which trade can be carried on.

DOWN IN FLYING BULL

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. (CP)—A rifle shot brought down a runaway bull here when a local constable scored a "bull's eye" after the animal escaped from a slaughter house, was recaptured and then jumped through the window of a two-story barn onto the roof.

Deal Surgeon Braves Seas Saving Lives

Mild-Mannered Doctor Does Unlikely Work Answering Medical Calls from Ship in Downs Roadstead Just a Job He Says

DEAL, England (CP-Reuters). Dr. James S. Hall looked more like a snowman than a human being as he climbed wearily out of the tiny boat on the windwept quayside. His clothes were frozen stiff from the snow squalls and driving rain. A sea-spray icicle glinted on his left shoulder.

He was returning from the downs roadstead after a fruitless five-hour search for a ship flying the "W" signal, the medical aid signal.

After a brief break ashore, a change of dry clothes, a hot meal, a quick visit to his surgery and a hurried round of his more urgent patients he was back in his little boat again, heading out into the squally sea and the keen-cutting snow wind to continue the search.

This time he was successful. He found the ship, he found the patient, and five hours later he was back for a short sleep before taking up his normal routine medical work ashore.

Since the beginning of the war, Doctor Hall, affectionately known as "Doc's SOG one-surgeon," has made 167 trips to sea in lifeboats, motor-boats and tiny little open rowing boats to bring medical aid to sick, injured and wounded sailors.

Time after time he has faced snow and ice and even 100 miles an hour gales battling his way out to ships tossing in the downs roadstead the contraband control base or to wrecks on the dangerous Goodwin sands.

He is a mild-mannered man, mustached, sleek-haired and keen-eyed. Even when he has spent hours at sea in the coldest, vilest weather there is a quiet confident smile on his face.

Doctor is Modest

Although "the doctor bloke" has become famous among the crews of the ships which pass through the downs roadstead contraband control base, although the seamen themselves tell hair-raising tales of the way he fights his way to them in gales with waves running 40 to 50 feet high, although they talk vividly of the way he climbs cat-like up rope ladders with high seas threatening to wash him away at any moment, Doctor Hall himself does not think his work in any way spectacular.

"There's really nothing to it," he says. "I don't want to talk about it. And really, I don't think there's anything in my work which could make interesting reading. It's just a job of work, that's all."

At home, Doctor Hall is a real family man. He has six children, three boys and three girls. He likes nothing more than to be able to seize an odd hour or two to play with them in the large loft at his home, which he has fitted up with a superb electric railway. In his spare time he is a composer, a well-known amateur photographer and at the moment temporary organist at St. Thomas Roman Catholic church in Deal.

No matter what he is doing, playing the organ, romping with his children, attending patients or holding his surgery, he always keeps ready for instant use his "sou'wester" and rubber boots.

He never knows when he is going to need them.

COURT WAR LENIENT

LINDSAY, Ont. (CP)—Case was dismissed by Magistrate—E. A. Gee when a laborer, charged with disorderly conduct, told a grade A, hard luck story. He had served four years in the present war, had been tormented four times, had twice been reported missing or dead and his wife, informed of his death, had remarried.

Chronicles of... Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press by GWENNDOLINE F. CLARKE

It is surprising the things one can find to do around the house in stormy weather. For instance, last week Partner and I got ourselves a job of real hard work, lasting for two whole days. It was no less than wrecking our old square piano. A black piano that had long since become a white elephant! There was no other way of getting rid of it. It wasn't worth giving away; no junk dealer would take it in its entirety, its case was of no particular value and none of its "insides" could be used for repair work on any other type of piano.

This piano, you may remember, occupied a big corner of the room we moved into when we went "south". So imagine the state of our bedroom for two whole days. Almost the first thing Partner did was to unstring the instrument. Have you ever examined the works of a piano? Have you noticed how (a) are the wires, and how each one is tightly twisted around an iron peg? These pegs had to be turned by brute force to release the strings and Partner's hands are still sore from the struggle.

My job was dissecting the keyboard and as I was doing I made several discoveries. Haven't you often wondered what makes piano keys come up again directly your fingers release them or worse still, why, sometimes, they don't? Well, I can give you the answer. Away at the end of each key is a tiny brass spring which controls the action of the key. And of course you know what happens when a spring becomes weak or breaks. Really, it was quite fascinating, this job. In fact it seemed almost a crime to deliberately destroy the marvelous and intricate workmanship that had gone into the making of this aged piano. Dear knows how much glue was used, for glue was everywhere. Not one nail did we find anywhere, nothing but screws, wooden pegs, brass pegs and glue. And yet, with all this fine workmanship, the wood was poor nothing more than pine with a covering of thin veneer. The only parts worth saving were the lid, the hinges, and the screws we won't need to buy any screws for years; of course the iron frame and brass pegs will go to help heat Hitler, and if from the melting pot there emerge a few shells to go singing through the air in a death dirge for Nazi devils, then the last music of our old piano may yet be its best.

And now to change the subject. Are you interested in rheumatism—or arthritis—call it what you will, an aching joint by any other name would hurt as much. Arthritis is an awful thing—to be who has it and to the doctor who tries to cure it. Partner has been a victim of arthritis—for years. In fact it is a hang-over from rheumatic fever contracted during the last war. There are almost as many "cures" as there are types of arthritis. One of the newest is treatment by huge doses of Vitamin D but only as prescribed by a doctor. Partner has been taking it for months but without any appreciable results. He is still taking it but the dosage has been changed—and the result is now quite encouraging. If you have any kind of acute or chronic arthritis why not consult your doctor as to whether he thinks you might respond favorably to Vitamin D treatment. That is just a suggestion take it or leave it as you will, but knowing something about rheumatism myself I have an idea that you will welcome anything that promises some success from constant nagging pain.

So we are into February already past the second day of the month and the ground-hog has decreed that there shall be six weeks of winter. Oh oh! Six more weeks! Can we take it? Whether we can or not I suppose we shall just have to. That is if it comes. But maybe the ground-hogs, like people, are prone to error. I am just wondering what condition our car will be in by the time it is possible to drive it again. It was supposed to be winterized but I am wondering if it was winterized enough. However, I don't intend to try it on the road. Certainly it would seem that the weatherman is entitled to yet another title—that of Oil Controller. And a very efficient one at that.

LEAVES PULPIT TO RUN TAVERN

LONDON (CP)—Rev. R. A. Goodwin has left the pulpit to take over a pub. The shift in jobs caused some lifting of eyebrows but the preacher-turned-publican said business was good at his 40-year-old Lion Hotel and that he was enjoying himself.

"I always dreamed of getting and owning a pub, and now I'm completely happy. My wife enjoys the change, too."

Mr. Goodwin admitted that he was no longer officiating at any church services, because "that would shake some people around here too much."

HUNTER DISCOVERS RARE "SNOW BUG"

A hunter, in quest of a wary rabbit, came upon a startling discovery. He found a number of small, long-legged insects walking over the snow. At first he thought them to be animated particles of wood, but on closer examination, he found that they possessed six legs, a body and a small head. He placed a few of them in a piece of paper and stuffed them into the pocket of his hunting jacket.

The following day he took the insects to the Royal Ontario Museum here he learned, from the insect specialists, that he had found a rather rare kind of crane-fly and that little is known about the life history of this cold-loving insect. They appear as wingless, adult flies in the coldest months of the year, but what happens to them when the warmer weather arrives no one seems to know. Incidentally, the insects were dead by the time they reached the Museum. Apparently this peculiar little "snow bug" just can't tolerate heat.

R.A.F. Bombers Attack Steel Factory



Picture shows R.A.F. bombers of the 2nd Tactical Air Force making the attack on the steel works at Capen. This photograph was taken by a cameraman of the R.A.F. Film Production Unit shown bombs bursting in the target area.

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WE BELIEVE that life insurance is a democratic business because its policyholders participate in the management of the companies through the directors they elect.

Excerpt from the address given at the 64th Annual Meeting.

W. H. Kilgour
PRESIDENT

Highlights from the 64th Annual Report

Premiums Collected	\$ 9,825,333.
Policy Benefits Paid	5,242,350.
New Business Effected	40,922,429.
Business in Force	334,671,797.
Total Assets Held	89,594,277.
Special Reserves and Surplus	7,486,735.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

A MUTUAL COMPANY

Head Office TORONTO

HOWARD GRAFF
Representative



PREFABRICATED TUGS FROM U.S.



Prefabricated tugs are now being assembled in British shipyards from the material sent by American firms of constructional engineers. All the shipyards have to do is put the parts together. Picture shows: A tug which will be ready for launching in four days when engines and boilers, which are delivered from another contractor, are installed and final touches put to the superstructure.