

## 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.

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'S 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-storey barn onto the roof.

**Mild-Mannered Doctor Does Unique Work Answering Medical Calls from Ship In Downs Roadstead**  
Just a Job He Says

DEAL, England (CP-Reuter)—Dr. James S. Hall looked more like a snowman than a human being as he climbed wearily out of the tiny boat on the windswept 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 "Deal's S.O.S. sea 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. Its 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 torpedooed four times, had twice been reported missing or dead and his wife informed of his death, had remarried.

## Deal Surgeon Braves Seas Saving Lives

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## AUSTRALIAN DROUGHT AFFECTS LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Australia is experiencing one of the worst droughts in her history. As Australia is one of the important meat producing and exporting countries of the world, and the drought now covers large portions of that country, the conditions there may have important effects on future export meat supplies. The following report from a recent "Australian News Letter" which appeared in the Ottawa Journal, is reminiscent of similar conditions experienced in Southern Alberta in 1918 and 1919, and in southern Saskatchewan in 1936 and 1937, but apparently on a much larger scale.

"Faced with the problems of an abnormal increase in food demands from the Pacific front and from Britain, Australia is in the midst of the worst drought for years.

"In the coming season there will be a serious drop in the wheat harvest. The Australian Wheat Board's estimate of the 1944-45 crop is 66,000,000 bushels, the smallest for 25 years. The 10-year average is 162,000,000 bushels. Australian requirements are estimated at 70,000,000 bushels, which means that exports will have to be drawn from reserves which, however, are fairly substantial.

"The meat position is serious. Pacific forces will require an additional 350,000 tons a year, which may mean that the civilian meat ration will have to be considerably reduced, particularly beef, which is already a long way below mutton and lamb in the quotas supplied to retailers. Producers estimate that fat lambs for export will be one-third of the pre-war number. Many breeding ewes have been killed for canning and thousands of lambs are not in fit condition for killing. Application of rationing and the quota system have helped. Price-fixing and the compulsory acquisition of a portion of carcass for canning have enabled the accumulation of stocks in cold storage and in cans.

"Transport for stock from drought-stricken areas is another headache, because of shortage of rolling-stock, war having halted construction and repairs. There is an over-all shortage of manpower. Many producers are faced with heavy losses. Many are in danger of losing their equities in their properties. Irrigation has helped to produce more stock feed, but so great reduction has taken place in flocks and herds that it will take years to build them up again. Because this is the second drought year, there is next to no hay or chaff. Most farmers have had to sell even their house cows, and fall back on condensed and powdered milk for their families. Produce stores are supplying chaff at the rate of a bag each three weeks for each cow. Only one-tenth of the fodder needed was available; a farmer came for a few bags of chaff to keep his horses alive until he could get them away by rail to grass country in the south, but the chaff shed was empty. The farmer took a broom, swept up the floor, and took the sweepings.

"Over the next four or five weeks fodder supplies are needed most desperately until all the stock that can be moved has been got away for sale or adjustment. Sheep lay dead in paddock after paddock for miles. Young lambs, unable to pick anything from the bare ground where their mother still got pickings, suckled the ewes. Wheat is almost the only feed left. Twelve hundred bags went out from one town in one day as drought feed for sheep and horses."

With this sort of thing happening in one of the world's largest sheep raising areas—with stiffening prices for finished lambs on all markets—and with renewed Government Military contracts, owners of sheep in Canada might well give studied consideration to the full maintenance of their flocks during 1945. There is little to be gained by the "In and Out Policy."

**Wheat, Wool Output Pared in Australia**  
Drought Widespread in South But Effects to be Felt Most in 1945

CANBERRA (CP)—The full effect of the present drought in southern parts of Australia will not be felt until this year according to Director General of Agriculture Frank Bulcock. Livestock and grain production have suffered most, but fortunately the position is better in the dairying, vegetable and fruit industries. In Western Australia recent rains have improved the situation.

Commenting on the reduced wheat yield, Commerce and Agriculture Minister William Scully said there will be sufficient to meet Australia's needs. He gave an assurance that, while export shipments would have to be reduced, Australia would meet all commitments to Britain.

Estimates from New South Wales are 20,000,000 bushels, compared with a normal yield of 45,000,000 to 55,000,000. The entire Victorian crop, estimated at between 3,000,000 and 5,000,000 bushels, will be required for seed and feed for stock. In South Australia the crop will probably total 5,000,000 bushels, compared with an average of 30,000,000, while in Western Australia the yield will be about 12,000,000. Queensland, however, expects a record harvest of 7,000,000 bushels, compared with an average of 5,000,000.

Wool authorities forecast a reduction in next season's wool clip as a result of the drought. Present indications are that the 1944-45 clip will be 3,500,000 bales, or 300,000 less than the average for the past five years. Even if seasonal conditions improved the number of sheep for shearing next season will be less than in recent years, and a few years may elapse before the clip again reaches 3,500,000 bales. The reduction of 300,000 bales in this year's output will cut Australia's wool income by nearly \$20,000,000. Surplus wool now stored in Australia now totals 4,750,000 bales.

**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.

**Orchid Craze Hits Sydney**  
Women Wearing Clusters of Them—Orchid Charity Show

SYDNEY, Australia (CP)—An orchid craze has hit Sydney and women are wearing not one but clusters of them.

Displays of orchids are being held for charity and have broken attendance records. Some 35,000 people paid £750 (about \$2,625) to see one nine-day show and some 27,412 attended another three-day exhibit.

At one show £1,000 worth of blooms were exhibited by 40 growers.

For many years the idea had been that tropical jungles were the natural home of orchids, one authority explained. Around Sydney, however, orchids grow under bushhouse conditions and at the base of deciduous trees.

**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 retiring 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."

**TEACH CRIME PREVENTION**

SHERBROOKE (CP)—Quebec Fire Chief Rosaire Beaulieu said here that a crime prevention course should be organized in the province of Quebec. He said that school children should be given lectures on the importance of crime prevention and on the various aspects of the law.

**HEALTH OF ANIMALS**

The Veterinary Director General reports that during the year ended March 31st, 1944, the health of animals in Canada was good, and that no serious outbreak of contagious disease in live stock occurred. Dourine, a disease of horses, was eradicated 25 years ago, and no cases of glanders has occurred during the past six years.

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COUNTY OF HALTON  
1945 - LOCAL COURTS CALENDAR - 1945

Place of Sitting	Day of Sitting	Jan.	Mar.	May	June	Sept.	Nov.	Jan. 1946
1 Milton	Friday	5	9	4	20	7	9	11
2 Oakville	Tuesday	9	6	1	26	11	6	8
3 Georgetown	Wednesday	3	7	2	27	5	7	9
4 Acton	Thursday	4	8	3	28	6	8	10
6 Burlington	Monday	8	5	7	25	10	5	7

All Division Courts Open at 10 a.m. Daylight Saving Time

Names and Addresses of Clerks—1, B. Knight, Milton; 2, John Chambers, Oakville; 3, Elmer Thompson, Georgetown; 4, Wilfred Coles, Acton; 6, C. D. Bull, Burlington.

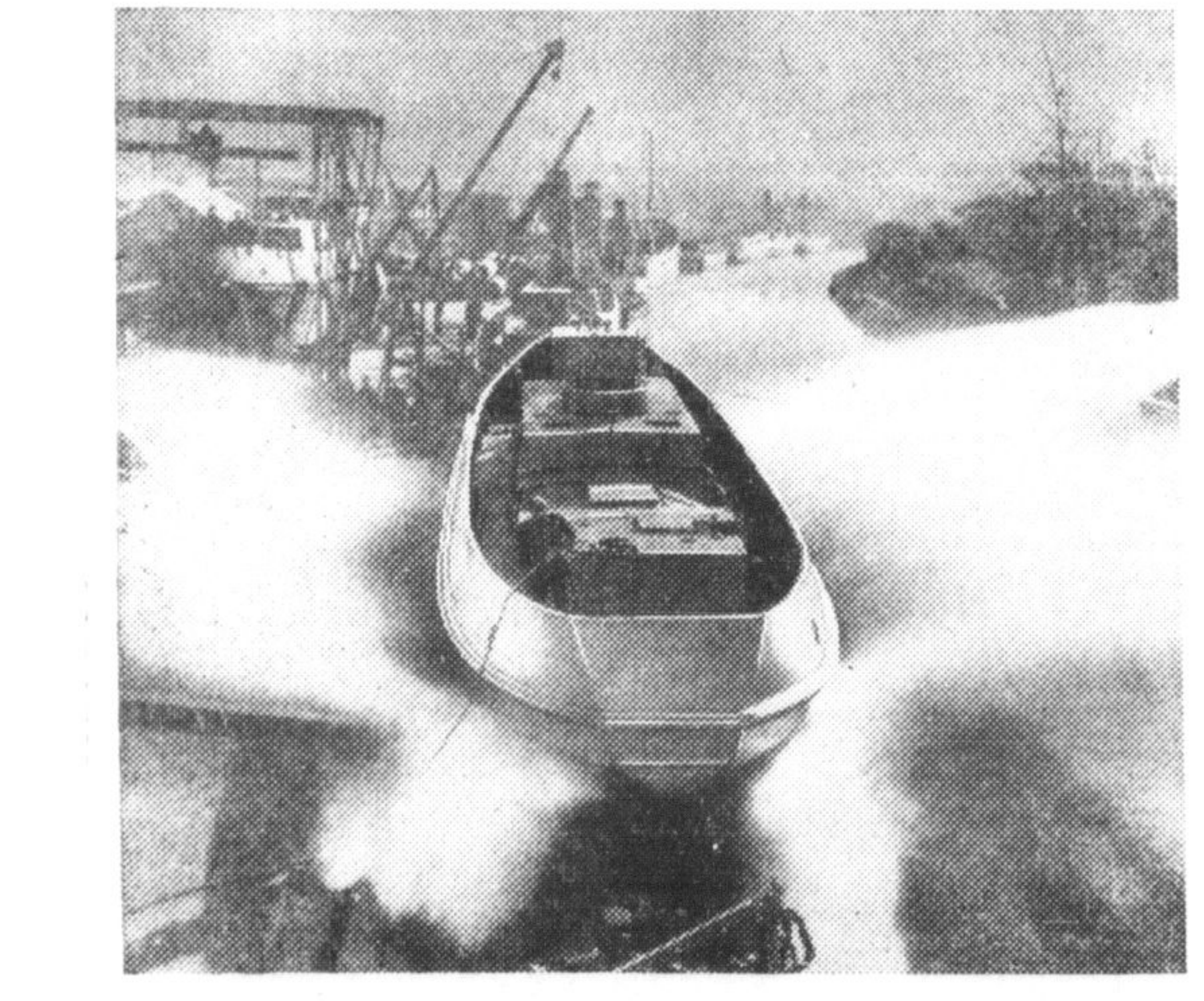
County Court and General Sessions, Monday, 4th June, 1 p.m.; Monday 3rd December, 1 p.m.

Sittings of County Court without Jury, Monday, 2nd April, at 10 a.m.; Monday, 1st October, at 10 a.m.

Audit of Criminal Justice and County Accounts, Thursday, 4th January; Thursday, 5th April; Thursday, 5th July; Thursday, 4th October.

By order **W. I. DICK, Milton**  
Clerk of the Peace

## 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.

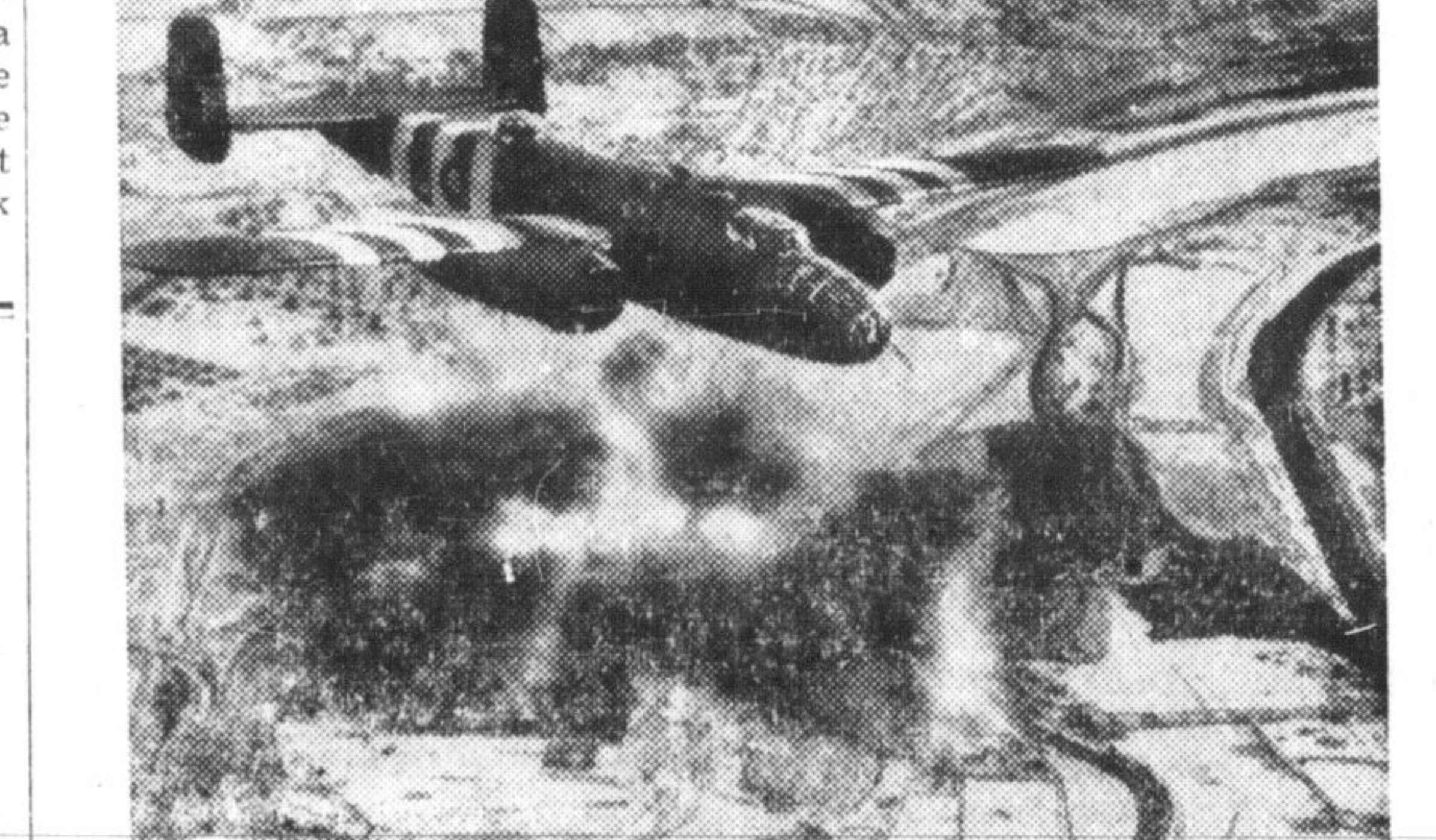
Picture shows: A tug which will be ready for launching in four days when engines and boilers, which are delivered from another contractor are installed and final touches put to the superstructure.

Please help your Bus Driver  
Speed up the Service

Your bus drivers are doing a fine job endeavoring to cope with difficult war-time travel. If you have any annoyances, please do not blame the driver, for he has no control over conditions and only carries out his orders.

You can co-operate and do much to speed up service. Have your tickets ready when boarding and leaving bus. Get correct information in advance. Do not travel unless absolutely necessary, and even then avoid peak hours and week-ends. Leave children at home. Do everything you can to make room and speed up service.

## 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 Caen. 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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