

Old law rules it's illegal to skate on Christmas Day

By M. Melvare Hood
LONDON—Although very few of the British people are aware of it, there are quite a few things which they cannot, legally, do on Christmas Day. By an ancient law, which has never been removed from the statute books of the country, it is an offence to skate on a country pond, play billiards or football, or play tennis on a hard court on Dec. 25.

Of course, no one pays any attention to this old law nowadays. For years, there have been league football games and it is only this year that the Football League decided to give the players a complete holiday on Christmas Day. But the old law is still in force, and even if no one tries to enforce it.

century, gigantic "Christmas Pies" were popular and one, recorded in history, contained four geese, four ducks, half a dozen each of pigeons and snipe, several wild woodcocks, rabbits, ox tongue—and a turkey.

There was a time, however, when the eating of mince pies and plum pudding was not allowed in England. When the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell were in power in 1644, England had to keep Christmas as a fast day. In that year Cromwell ordered that the last Wednesday of each month should be a day of fasting, and Christmas Day became the last Wednesday in December. So England fasted. Then, but the old law is still in force, and even if no one tries to enforce it.

VICTIMS OF TRADITION

Novadays, the British people are the victims of traditions from other lands. The giving of presents at Christmas comes from the Romans. Santa Claus comes from the Dutch and the Russians. When the Romans' solar festival of Dec. 25 began to supersede the Epiphany on Jan. 6, which is still celebrated as Christmas by some of the European people, 16 centuries ago, the Roman custom of giving presents was maintained. And whoever fills the stockings on Christmas Eve, is the modern reproduction of St. Nicholas, who is also known as

Kris Kringle or Santa Claus. The English Father Christmas is borrowed from the Dutch children's benefactor, Santa Klaus, whose name, in turn, is a corruption of Father Christmases, the Russian St. Nicholas.

In the Dutch version, Santa Klaus is said to travel - from Spain on horseback with black servants who put gifts in children's shoes. The Dutch took this version to the New World and passed it on to the English. A fairy tale by Hans Anderson was the basis on which the English version was formulated - that Santa Claus came from the North Pole on a sleigh drawn by reindeer.

Caouette Denies \$3,000 'Holdup'

OTTAWA (CP) - Creditist Leader Real Caouette denied in the Commons a report in Montreal La Presse that he has forced each of his 12 followers to give him \$3,000 out of the \$18,000 annual parliamentary pay.

On a question of privilege, Mr. Caouette said such "perfidious insinuations" were derived from stupidity.

Leon Balcer (PC - Trois-Rivières) said anybody who would subscribe \$3,000 to Mr. Caouette must be insane.

Probe Reveals No 'Leak' In Oil Company Take-Over

TORONTO (CP) - Attorney-General Frederick Cass of Ontario said here inquiries have failed to disclose any leak of advance information on the \$136,000,000 take-over of Canadian Oil Companies Ltd. in 1963 by Shell Investments.

Mr. Cass issued a special statement on the take-over following continued rumors that a dividend information was leaked, enabling several persons to profit on the basis of their inside information.

Mr. Cass said that on Sept. 25, 1962, the date of the Shell offer to buy up Canadian Oil stock, "there were many rumors that an offer was coming forth."

He said newspapers were carrying stories saying Shell would make an offer of more than \$90 a share. The actual offer, made public at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 25, 1962, was worth about \$52 a share.

had called V. F. Grafstrom, president of Shell Investments, to discuss the rumors of an offer.

Mr. Wookey said Mr. Grafstrom told him "Shell had made an offer and expected to get the Canadian Oil company." Mr. Cass said.

PRICE EXCEEDED BID
Mr. Wookey then tried to purchase Canadian Oil shares on the Vancouver exchange, which still had not closed for the day, "but the price exceeded his bid."

"He was not successful in purchasing any shares there even though he bid as high as \$32.30."

Mr. Cass said the investigators also checked "one of the larger investment houses in Toronto" which Mr. Wookey had confirmed the rumors of the take-over offer.

Mr. Cass said they could not confirm Mr. Wookey's statement but the investment house told the investigators "they un-

18 Voting Age Urged For U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A presidential commission has recommended that all states consider dropping the minimum age for voters to 18. It also called for eliminating poll taxes and literacy tests as qualifications for voting.

President Johnson called the 11-member commission to the White House to present its report, ordered last March by John F. Kennedy.

The group, labelled the president's commission on registration and voting participation, was scathing in its denunciation of what it considered roadblocks to voting.

For example, in recommending that the poll tax be eliminated as a prerequisite for voting, it said:

"No American should have to

buy his right to vote in any election."

APPLIES TO ALL
The commission chairman, Census Director Richard M. Scammon, told reporters the recommendation applied both to state and federal elections.

Cited as the major argument for 18-year-old voting was the belief that, by the time young people reach 21, they are "so far removed from the stimulation of the educational process that their interest in public affairs has waned."

Georgia and Kentucky are the only states that allow 15-year-olds to vote. The age minimum is 19 in Alaska, 20 in Hawaii and 21 in the other 46 states.

were higher wheat deliveries on the Prairies and higher returns for coarse grains, poultry, and larger government advances on farm-stored grain. There also were gains in potatoes, dairy products, eggs, fruits, vegetables, rapeseed and soybeans. Returns from cattle and

calves, hogs, rye and flax were lower.

SIGN PETITION
Some 580 prominent Norwegians have signed a petition urging South Africa to free all imprisoned opponents of apartheid.



May your Christmas be filled with wishes come true, grand friendships renewed.

HELAINES MILLINERY

Montague

Farm Income Shows Boost

OTTAWA (CP) - Canadian farm cash income the first nine months of this year was 4.6-per-cent higher than income in the same period of 1962, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported.

Contributing to the increase

To All Our Many Friends...

MERRY CHRISTMAS

GENERAL AUTO ACCESSORIES

Montague

PEACE

A Wise Man followed a Star to seek, to find and worship Him, so may you find the peace and joy of a holy Christmas.

DUVAR RADIO SERVICE

Montague Souris



just an old fashioned wish - Merry Christmas!

JO-ANN DRESS SHOP

Montague

NOEL

The Christmas bells peal loud and clear. As you hear their message, may your heart be filled with joy.

DOUG'S SERVICE STATION

Towing and Complete Auto Service

Montague P.E.I.

Our sincere wish that all the Blessings of Christmas abide with you.

LANGLEY FRUIT PACKERS

LTD.

MONTAGUE CHILLIWACK, B.C.

Christmas Cheer

In the very best tradition, we wish our old and new friends a holiday filled with all the happiness of an old-fashioned Christmas!

BISON RESTAURANT

Montague

Hi! and Merry Christmas to Everyone!

REID and MacKENZIE

MONTAGUE

Joyous Yuletide

HAPPY HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL!

MONTAGUE AUTO BODY

Montague P. E. I.

merry christmas

'Tis the season to be jolly, and to wish you and your family a Yuletide filled with every happiness.

McGowan Motors

Montague P. E. I.

Peace on earth

A Child was born, and there came to earth glad tidings of great joy... of Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men. As the Star of Bethlehem shone on that Holy Night, may the true spirit of Christmas shine upon you and yours at this glorious season.

MacLEOD & GREEN

MONTAGUE SOURIS