

New Civic Centre Opened Yesterday



At a reception held at the Charlottetown Hotel following the opening of the new Civic Centre seen left to right are George V. Fraser, Manager of the Island Tourist Bureau; G. C. Bird, general manager of S. M. T., Saint John, N. B.; A. Walthen Gaudet, Chairman of the Market Committee; His Worship Mayor Stewart; Premier W. Matheson; Ernest Lord, manager of the Island Motor Transport; Judge A. E. Arsenault, J. F. Toombs, architect. Barter's Film Lab.



Seen above is the beautiful information office of the Prince Edward Island Tourist Bureau located in the new Civic Centre which was opened yesterday. The location of this bureau in the center of the City marks a forward step in the promotion of the tourist industry in the Province. Barter's Film Lab.

Victoria Day To Be Observed May 23

OTTAWA, (CP)—Victoria Day will be celebrated Monday, May 23, officials of the state secretary's department said Monday. This is in accordance with the statute that provides for Victoria Day to be celebrated on the Monday immediately preceding May 24.

Coming Events

- Dance St. Andrew's Hall, Mt. Stewart, Thursday, April 28.
-Dance in Emerald Hall, Friday, May 6th. Canteen service. Music by the Myers Brothers.
-See Indian River Players present 3-act play "Black Gold", Friday, May 6 in Kinkora Hall.
-Reserve Wednesday, May 18th for Central Bedouque Variety Concert.
-Dance at Oyster Bed Bridge school Thursday, May 5. Music by Dolron Brothers.
-See West Covehead Y. A. Plays at Aton Hall, Tuesday, May 10th, 8.30. Rice Point W. I. Specialties.
-Buying pigs, good pigs over 35 lbs. each. Paying highest market price. Wellington MacNeill & Son, Sustain & Bell's Wharf.
-French River, May 5th, see (The Boy Named Beulah) by Summerside Baptist Players. Admission 50c and 35c. Sponsored by W. I.
-Sevan Mile Bay Hall, Friday, May 13th, 8.30, two one act plays, good specialties. Sale of candy. Admission 50c and 25c.
-Buying pigs on Market Square Friday forenoon, paying \$30 a pair if 40 lbs. and over. Can also handle few good quality veal calves under 300 lbs. Signed Willard Provost, Brackley.
-Cleaning grain and grass seeds now at our Charlottetown and Summerside mills. Do not leave your cleaning until ready to sow and be delayed. P. L. Morris Feed Service Mills.
-Crapaud - All who are interested in helping the Fall family who lost their home by fire are asked to meet in Crapaud Hall, Thursday evening, May 5th. Signed Bert Wood, Frank MacDonald, Bert J. Trowsdale, Verner Moore.
-Come and dance to Johnny Morning and his sensational Melodiers of Springhill, Nova Scotia. You have heard them on the air. Come and see them at the Forum Saturday night, May 7. Entertainment, Dancing 9-12. Admission 50c.

School Choruses Featured At High School Program

The auditorium at Queen Charlotte High School buzzed again with activity as school choruses competed yesterday morning. West Kent School walked away with four firsts and shared an other with Prince Street School during the first session of the day in the five classes in which they were entered. Mr. Mitchell praised the group, teacher and accompanist for their high standard of work. "They have a feeling about their work which is hard to match. Their pitch and tone quality are excellent indeed," stated the genial adjudicator. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Kilburn were present for the busy programme in the afternoon. Offering variety was the Girls' Solo, Low Voice, 18 years and under. Mr. Mitchell had praise for the performance of the Parkdale School in their class. School Chorus, Grades 8, 9 and 10. They sang the delightful "The Orchestra Song". The Notre Dame Academy were commended for their two part singing of "Hark, Hark, the Lark" by Schubert. Special mention was made of the work done by Miss Ruth Boswell with the Queen Charlotte High School Choruses. In five classes, they won three firsts and (Continued on Page 15 col. 6)



Help Chalk Up Victory For School These youngsters from West Kent School have good reason to be happy. With close competition they placed first in their class School Chorus, Grade 6, two parts with a mark of 86. Said the adjudicator, "Their voices were crisp and sweet and they were happy. Enjoying the song you sing is very important indeed." From left to right they are: John Owen, Velle Bugden, John Ives, David Matthews, Jimmy MacNutt, David Buell, Billy Prowse and Michael Jelks. Second row: Gayle Ramsay, Stella Robbins, Donna Dingwell, Elaine Walker, Lyn Manning, Margaret MacLennan, Elizabeth Horne, Dorothy Sherrin, Flora MacLeod. Third row: Daphne Armstrong, Gloria MacKenzie, Donna Lord, Daryl MacLean, Gail Stewart, Vera Cameron, Andrea Duvar, Vera Carson, Beverley Stanley, Aura Lee MacKenzie, Anne Storey. Barter's Film Lab.

CLASH IN COMMONS OVER HISTORY OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

Grade II Children To Receive Polio Vaccine About Mid-May

Polio vaccine will be given by the Department of Health to Grade II children in Prince Edward Island beginning about the middle of May, it was announced yesterday by Hon. B. Earle MacDonald, Minister of Health and Welfare. Since it was announced that two doses only are necessary at this time, the vaccine which was slated to be given as the third dose for Grade I will now be used as the first dose for Grade II. Enough additional vaccine for the second dose in June was requested and assurance has been given of its arrival in late June. At the next clinics, besides the Grade II pupils any Grade I pupils who missed either or both of the previous doses may receive them. About 2,700 Grade I pupils received the first two doses in April with no reactions of note and very little discomfort. The vaccine used by the Department of Health is produced by Connaught Research Laboratories in Ontario, and none is imported from the United States.

Highest Festival Mark Given New Dominion Girl At Program Last Night

Four adjudicators were kept on their toes last night at the two auditoriums where the Musical Festival proceedings are being held. Highlight at Q.H.C.S. was the awarding of 95 marks to Shirley MacDonald, New Dominion, for her singing of Stephen Foster's "Gentle Annie." This is the highest mark received by an entrant or class this year. "This performance was extremely moving," said Mr. Mitchell. "It was one of the finest I have ever heard in any Festival. It was sheer delight." Continuing his high praise he concluded, "I was very glad that I was present." Myrna Hancock and Maureen Forbes received 82 marks for their delightful rendering of the light and airy "Pipes of Pan." In the Bass solo class, Ivor J. Phillips was judged a "very gifted artist but not as good a singer." Mr. Kilburn awarded him 83 marks for his interpretation of "Money O." Prince of Wales Auditorium was the scene of several outstanding performances also. The Kathleen Hornby String Orchestra displayed skill in their number, "Moonlight and Roses." Mr. Blachford gave several helpful suggestions to the group which will improve this already splendid ensemble. The eight gentlemen who made up the Double Quartette as the Central Royalty Glee Club were excellent in Purcell's soulful "Passing By." The director, Mrs. Allison MacRae, A.R.C.M., was responsible for the fine leadership which was apparent in their singing. Mr. Wharram commended entrant Chester Donovan who sang the operatic solo "Your Tiny Hand is Frozen" from La Boheme. Mr. Donovan appeared having recently only recovered from a bout with pneumonia. Following are the winners in their classes from both auditoriums. AT HIGH SCHOOL Class 65 (a)—Stephen Foster Song—Senior Open—Female Voice—Marks 95, 1. Shirley Mac-

OTTAWA, (CP)—Opposition Leader Drew and two cabinet ministers Wednesday fought again some old federal-provincial battles and skirmished on the never ground of this year's federal negotiations with the provinces.

Mr. Drew accused the government of scuttling the 1945-46 federal-provincial conference and Health Minister Martin fired back that the opposition leader—then Ontario Premier—was "one of the main factors why that conference did not succeed."

Each denied the other's statement during a spirited exchange in the budget debate which now is pointing towards conclusion today, its 10th day.

Mr. Drew, in his most vigorous speech this session, also disputed the same point with Justice Minister Garson who attempted the conference a decade ago as premier of Manitoba.

Mr. Drew described as "reckless and irresponsible" the federal offer last week to share provincial and municipal costs of unemployment relief.

He said the offer was made merely to catch the eye of the press and radio, and that the federal government did not have the facts on which to base its offer.

The 1945 proposals, he said, also were put forward without sufficient facts on which to base a decision.

Mr. Drew said it is not generally known that he himself initiated the 1945 conference through a letter in January, 1944, to the then prime minister, Mackenzie King urging a federal-provincial conference on post-war planning.

AGREEMENT NOT REACHED He said the only reason agreement was not reached was that the conference was adjourned indefinitely and the federal government refused to meet again with the provinces. Instead, it had made a unilateral offer of its terms for a tax agreement.

The government now was trying to confuse Canadians as to whether it still supports the 1945 proposals set out in a federal "green book" at the time.

Mr. Blachford, after a morning's rest was back in his chair for the afternoon sessions.

Once again he reiterated his plea for more competition in the various classes.

The Kirk of St. James Choir of Mixed Voices and their Junior's Boys' Choir received 80 marks in their respective classes.

"The young people are gangling up on me," he said when he found it necessary to award double and triple ties during the piano duet. (Continued on Page 6 col. 3)

Competition Very Close In Piano Duets At P. W. C. Hall

"These young ladies have shown exceptional musicianship," said Mr. Frank Wharram, Music Festival adjudicator at Prince of Wales College yesterday morning of the entrants in Class 126, piano duet, 12 years and under. Playing the "Spanish Dance" the youthful pianists amazed Mr. Wharram so much that he had to have the three sets of players replay their pieces in order that he could average their marks. Carol MacLean and Judith MacLean placed first with marks of 87.

All winners in the two morning classes received marks over 80. "The teachers of these young ladies are to be complimented," he said.

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Annual Meeting Transportation Commission

MONCTON (CP)—The Maritime Transportation Commission met in a decided Wednesday call business and government leaders of the four Atlantic provinces together at Halifax June 6 to discuss representations to the royal commission on Canada's coasting trade.

The annual meeting of the commission, an arm of the Maritime provinces board of trade and backed by the four provincial governments, said the four premiers, the Atlantic provinces economic council and the board of trade would be asked to attend.

The MTC said it would make a submission to the commission and would co-operate with others to present the position of the region against any changes which would increase transportation costs.

Also slated by the MTC is a meeting at Amherst, N.S., June 2 to consider the stand to be taken on the proposed equalization of railway commodity rates throughout Canada.

This conference will be attended by shippers from the four provinces.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED MONCTON (CP)—The Maritime Transportation Commission Wednesday re-appointed its 1954-55 executive for another term. Members are: Chairman A. Murray MacKay Halifax; vice-chairman for New Brunswick L. W. Simms, Lunenburg; for Nova Scotia, Johnston Chew, Glace Bay; for Newfoundland, Edgar Miller, St. John's; for Prince Edward Island, E. D. Reid, Charlottetown; and executive manager, Rand Matheson, Moncton.

W. Germany Free At Noon Today

(By George Boulwood) BONN, Germany (AP)—Fifty million West Germans gain the rights and privileges of a sovereign nation at noon today after 10 years of occupation by the Western allies.

The final obstacle to restoration of West Germany's sovereignty was removed Wednesday when a constitutional court in Karlsruhe ruled that the Franco-German agreement to Europeanize the Saar is constitutional. The agreement had been challenged by anti-rearmament Socialists.

At noon today the French and British high commissioners will deposit the treaties ending the occupation and permitting Allied troops to remain as defence forces.

West Germany becomes independent as soon as they have delivered the documents in a simple ceremony at the Palais Schaumburg, Konrad Adenauer's Chancellery. The United States and West Germany have already acted.

The exact hour and minute will be precisely recorded. For at that moment some 60 Allied laws and 130 ordinances become in valid.

Favorable Comments Heard On Opening Of Civic Centre

A large number of businessmen and Government officials were present yesterday afternoon when His Worship Mayor Stewart cut the ribbon and handed the keys to Mr. George Fraser of the Prince Edward Island Travel Bureau, and to Mr. Carl Bird, general manager of S.M.T., Saint John, N.B., to mark the opening of Charlottetown's new Civic Centre. Councillor A. Walthen Gaudet, chairman of the market committee, presided.

Present for the occasion were Premier Matheson and several members of the City Council. Members of the City Council attended and a telegram from Councilor E. C. Johnstone, who is in Toronto, was read expressing his regrets at being unable to attend. His Honour Lieut.-Gov. Prowse also sent his regrets.

Perhaps the most interested guest at the opening yesterday was retired Judge A. E. Arsenault, who is known to citizens as the father of the Tourist Industry in the Province. The Judge was very pleased with the new Centre which to him was the realization of a dream come true.

Coun. Gaudet said that for a number of years the Council had been toying with the idea of using the Market Building for some such purpose and he was happy

to see that, at last, it was made into this fine Centre which would at the same time, put the building on a paying basis to the City. He congratulated the various contractors who had made such a splendid job in bringing the building to completion.

His Worship, in declaring the Centre open, said that it was a splendid addition to the uptown area of the City. He made reference to the late Coun. T. B. Rogers who, he said, had for a number of years cherished the dream of converting the Market Building into such a place.

Premier Matheson congratulated those responsible for making the Centre possible. He said that with the large number of buildings being erected in the City, the Centre would be a great asset, not only to the two offices concerned, but to the citizenry in general.

Mr. Carl Bird said that he had seen larger and more elaborate bus terminals in his travels, "but I have never seen a more attractive one than this." He expressed the hope that with the acquisition of the new terminal his company would be able to give increased service to the travelling public.

Following the inspection of the building the guests were taken for a bus ride on one of the Island Motor Transport's new buses, through the courtesy of Mr. Ernest Lord, local manager. From five o'clock until seven the party were guests of the Island Motor Transport and the Prince Edward Island Travel Bureau at a reception held at the Charlottetown Hotel.

Red Jets Bolter In Formosa Area

TAIPEI, Formosa (AP)—Communist jet fighters Wednesday challenged Nationalist planes for the first time in the Matsu area, underscoring reports of an ominous Red air buildup on Formosa's approaches.

The Chinese air force said four MIG-15s attacked four propeller planes on patrol off the coast 50 miles north of the Matsu islands and about 150 miles north of Formosa.

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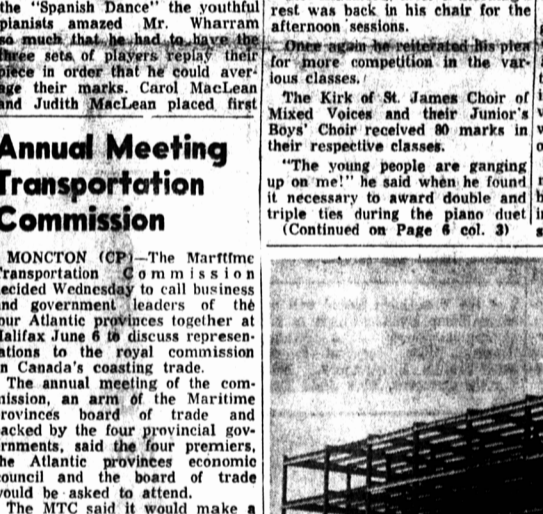
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Mayor J. D. Stewart is seen cutting the ribbon which officially opened the new Civic Centre yesterday. (Barter's Film Lab.)

Motor Vessel For Montague Is Wrecked

GRAND BANK, Nfld., (CP)—The 130-ton motor vessel Joan Garland is a total loss after running ashore on rocks at White Point in Fortune Bay, near here Wednesday.

The Joan Garland, owned by S. Piercey here, was captained by George White of Grand Bank, and was on a run to Montague, P.E.I. The crew landed safely at White Point.

May Equal Hurricane In Ont.

REGINA, (CP)—There may be still more damage to add to the inestimable toll caused by Saskatchewan's most vicious spring storm. Several prairie rivers, the most overflowing under normal spring run-off from the storm broke Tuesday, now threaten to spill their extra burden over wheatland dikes.

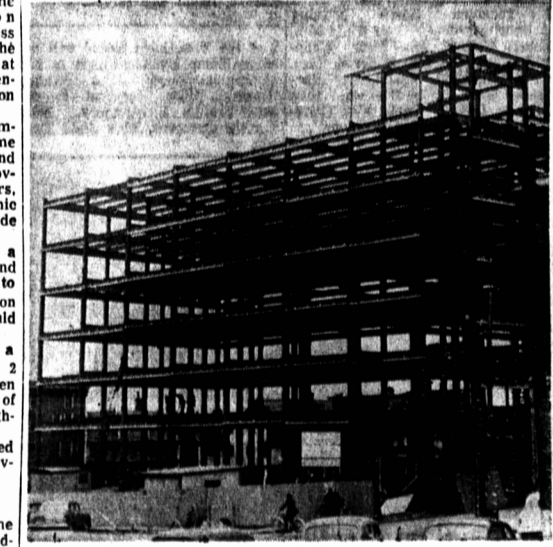
Some streams, mainly in the eastern half of the province, were rising steadily and dangerously Wednesday. Flood crisis were expected today in areas where farmers were confronted with their fourth straight year of crop failure due to flooding.

Fair weather returned Wednesday to disclose thousands of acres of inundated farmland, drowned livestock, abandoned homes. Urban losses were just as heavy. Communications still were only partially restored at Saskatoon and Prince Albert. Both cities were completely isolated Tuesday night.

LINES TOPPLED High winds and lightning toppled hundreds of main transmission lines. Saskatchewan Power Corporation officials said such losses alone would go well over \$1,000,000.

Telegraph officials, unable to maintain operations to Alberta and Manitoba at the height of the storm, said that in some districts the situation is desperate. Nine inches of wet snow in Saskatoon snapped trees and power poles like matchsticks.

In Regina, railway underpasses were filled with eight feet of water as the storm brought a heavy downpour in the space of a few



Federal Bldg. Steel Completed

A flag waves atop the Federal building, marking the completion of the steel erection yesterday. Although the steel is in place a good deal of it still requires to be riveted. Robb Engineering who are in charge of this phase of the work expect to have the last rivet driven on or about the middle of May.

At Wolsley, 100 miles east of Regina, 30 families were evacuated from their homes by row boats and a photographer who flew over the district said half the town is under water.

Trains were moving through the province, but most of them with caution. Railbeds in many places were undermined by the high waters, and most trains were moving slowly.

At Tantallon, east of Regina near the Manitoba border, 17 families were moved from their homes in this spring's third flood, the worst in 60 years.

The entire Qu'Appelle valley was already flooded, and the river which had risen by four feet Wednesday was expected to rise even higher today.

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Table with columns: Location, Min, Max. Includes Dawson, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Fredericton, Moncton, Halifax, Charlottetown, Sydney, Yarmouth, St Johns Nfld.