

MONTREAL

*Lat. Standard. Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1943.
Sunoco.*

Tonight the streets of Montreal are patrolled by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - together with the provincial police of Quebec. This follows a strange and paradoxical day in Canada's largest city.

There were fire alarms in Montreal, but nothing happened. No firemen or fire engines appeared. There were calls for police, but these went likewise unanswered. Nor were there any cops on the beat. The familiar patrolman on his round was missing. And every one of Montreal's million and a quarter people knows the city's water supply was jeopardized. All because of a strike - a walkout of municipal employees.

The issue at stake ^{was} ~~is~~ the familiar one of -
union recognition, an attempt to compel the city to recognize the Canadian Congress of Labor Unions. And forty-five hundred city employees walked out -

with the striking police and fire department most prominent in the headlines. ^{TP} The city appealed to the provincial government ~~of~~ Quebec and to the Royal Canadian Mounted police to assume the jurisdiction of law and order. The plea was granted, and tonight the people of Montreal are noticing those familiar ^{broad-brimmed} red coats and ~~goggles~~ hats of the Mounties instead of the usual uniforms of the cops.

A mere 2 hours after the Mounties appeared the author - this decided to recognize the Union.

2

In the normal course of things, we would have had a major declaration by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill today - he presenting to the House of Commons an account of the great conferences at Teheran and Cairo. Churchill, however, has still not returned to Britain, and his place was taken by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden - who told the Commons that the Prime Minister was detained by important duties. ~~These, perhaps, are duties connected with the conference and Churchill likely enough may still be in the Mediterranean theatre.~~

Eden is no Churchill, when it comes to phraseology and important disclosures, but he did provide some interesting discussion on angles of the war. (He reaffirmed the importance of the conferences with Chiang Kai-shek and Stalin, and promised that these may help to shorten the war. He was particularly

~~emphatic in reiterating that the defeat of Germany must be followed by a complete victory over Japan - arguing that an inconclusive issue with the Japs would only result in another World War.~~

Eden was enumerating and discussing the war in Italy. He admitted that the advance of the Fifth and Eighth Armies has been slow and not at all spectacular during the past several months, and explained: "The truth is that we now have reached what is the narrowest part of the Italian peninsula. The Appenines stretch almost from coast to coast. And, where they are not, swollen rivers take over." And he spoke of what he called - "heavy persistent rain, which swells every river and makes everywhere a sea of mud."

~~Eden went with some detail into the heart breaking phenomenon of rain. He told how Montgomery's Eighth Army~~

in a brilliant stroke, swept the Germans across the Sangro River, and the Allied commanders felt the campaign was going fine and dandy. But then came a deluge ~~of rain~~, and a quagmire of mud, which stopped the whole thing.

"The time," stated Anthony Eden today, "was spent in building ^{ing} up supplies, repairing bridges and roads, and getting ready for the next offensive. Montgomery ~~was~~ waiting for a spell of fine weather. "And," the Foreign Secretary related, "at last it came - on the night of November Twenty-Seven."

~~Then~~ ^{Then} Eden went on to tell of ~~the~~ huge bombardment ~~the~~ British ~~then~~ hurled at the Nazis, a deluge of shells followed by a powerful drive, and large success seemed at hands. "Then," said Eden,

"down came the rain again." And he proceeded to tell how the ~~Eiik~~ Eighth Army struggled in deluge and mud, making some advances, but always impeded by the rain.

ITALY FOLLOW EDEN

The latest dispatches from the battle front in Italy are along the line of the picture painted by Foreign Secretary Eden earlier in the day. ~~On~~ ~~General~~ Montgomery's ~~battle front~~, troops of the Eighth Army are pushing on through driving rain and bitter cold--making slow progress. The specific units mentioned in the communique are Canadian and

Indian. They are engaged in/a/converging movement-- the soldiers from the Dominion and from legendary

~~Hindustan~~ ^(-closing in on) The port ~~at~~ ^{of} Ortona ~~which is~~ ^{now} the German ~~is~~ anchor ~~along~~ ^{on} the Adriatic. ~~See~~ ^{is} the new line the Germans have formed.

~~On the General Clark side of the war front, the news is loud~~ ^{i.e.} ~~-a huge artillery bombardment being just about the loudest thing the human ear ever hears. The deluge of shells hurled at the German line is believed to be the overture to another heavy drive. But, the news thus far is all overture.~~

BALKANS

London has word that Lieutenant General Patton, Commander of the United States Seventh Army, is in the Middle East. And that raises suppositions that plans may be afoot for an invasion of the Balkans. The Nazis are jittery there - afraid of an Allied drive. And the satellite governments, like Bulgaria, are shaking in their shoes.

34

The Germans continue to hurl fierce attacks against the Yugoslav Partisans, presumably in an attempt to clear out guerrilla resistance before an invasion of the Balkans can be launched. The troops of General Tito are battling stubbornly against a whole series of Nazi drives. In one place, ninety thousand German troops, six divisions, have been thrown into the fight against the Third Corps of the Partisans. In some places, Tito's men have had to give ground, but they pulled back in good order and

FOLLOW BALKANS

In his address to the Commons today the British Foreign Secretary took up the ticklish matter of Jugoslavia, the bitter strife between the Partisans under Marshal Tito and the Chetniks of General Mikhailovich and King Peter. He stated that the British have sent a military mission to the headquarters of Tito and so has Soviet Russia.

ADD FOLLOW BALKANS

The latest along this line is a dispatch from London which states that young Peter of Jugoslavia may try ^a~~the~~ task of personal mediation between his government in exile and the regime of Marshal Tito. We are told that Tito's provisional government, while rather Communistic in color, is not hostile to the monarchy. Hence King Peter ^{thinks}~~feels~~ he can do something to help a reconciliation, and the report is that he will try to arrange a personal interview with Tito.

RUSSIA

The Soviet capture of Cherkassy is to some extent balanced ^{today} by the loss of a place further north.

The Russians ~~today were~~ forced to abandon the town of Radomisl under the fierce pressure of a German

counter-offensive. This is the same powerful counter-

thrust ~~with~~ with massed infantry and tanks ^{with} ~~in~~ which the

Nazi war machine has made repeated gains for weeks -

in the sector before Kiev. And the town of Radomisl is

the fourth important point ^{Russians} they have had to give up.

But this set-back only partly counter-balances the capture of Cherkassy by the Russians, which is of major importance. That place is an important road center, and its fall, says Moscow, makes it virtually certain that the whole German front bulging eastward in the Dnieper bend, will collapse.

PACIFIC

The news from the southwestern Pacific tells of one of the biggest air raids ever launched against the Japs in those parts, an aerial blow second only to ~~the~~ assault against Rabaul in October. That former time, three hundred and fifty tons of bombs hit the Japs, while the raid described today was a two hundred and forty-eight ton affair. The target was Gasmata, the big Jap base on the southern coast of New Britain Island. Huge damage was reported - raging fires and thunderous explosions.

And the latest - another American air assault against the Marshalls. Heavy army bombers smashed the Japs on 2 atolls.

~~Most of us have seen newsreel pictures of the training of dogs for service with the troops in war.~~

And I suppose many of us have wondered - what kind of useful and practical military duty can ~~these~~ dogs of war really perform?

An answer comes today from an official Marine Corps report ~~xxxxxxxx~~ citing the First Dog Platoon for heroism. Those Marine Corps canines are the real devil dogs, and they ^{performed} ~~xxxxxx~~ their deeds of valor in the bitter fighting on Bougainville.

~~At an advance outpost a party of marines was having a hot time and badly needed ~~xxxxxx~~ stretcher bearers. They had with them a German shepherd named Jack, and Jack was sent back to headquarters with a message. ~~calling for stretcher bearers~~ He was shot in the back, but kept limping on. He completed his mission and saved ^{the} ~~the~~ lives of ^{some of} ~~his~~ human buddies.~~

There was ~~another~~^a shepherd dog hero named Caesar, and he distinguished himself on the ~~very~~ first day of fighting at Bougainville. M Company got so far ahead ~~xxx~~ that the Japs cut its communications. That is, all communications - except Caesar. The dog made his way back and forth from M Company to headquarters, carrying messages and maps. The Japs were shooting at the messenger dog, but Caesar braved the bullets until the third day - when he fell dangerously wounded. The four-legged marine was taken on a stretcher to the hospital as carefully as if he were a ~~commissioned~~^{two-star} general, ~~and~~ and was subsequently evacuated ~~along with other~~^{along with other} disabled heroes.

~~Now~~ Otto ~~was~~ a Doberman pinscher, and in peacetime was a great dog for flushing quail. On Bougainville he flushed a Japanese machine gun nest - and ~~xxx~~ saved many an American life.

37

And so did Rex. - *He* was standing on guard ~~during~~
during the eighth night of the fighting on the island.

Rex has those sensitive canine ears, and he picked up
some strange noises - quite inaudible to his human
companions. Rex has a good loud bark, and gave the

Japs! Which,
warning, ~~in the howling way of dogs. The warning - Japs!~~

~~This~~ in the stiff military words of the official
report, "deprived the enemy of the element of surprise
when they attacked."

RUMORS

There is always something fascinating about the "Now-It-Can-Be-Told" kind of revelation. So let's look at a few things we are now permitted to disclose, under the new and liberalized rules issued by the Office of — with a Censorship - a number of restrictions taken off.

One of the rules that has been lifted concerns rumors - which permits us to pass along a few wild and wooly reports that had previously been forbidden.

The rumor factory was particularly busy on the Pacific coast right after Pearl Harbor, grinding out canards and whoppers - the publication of which might have caused public panic. ^{It} For example, one alarming tale told of a big Japanese aircraft-carrier right off California, ready to launch its planes against San Francisco or Los Angeles. This carrier, however, was sunk by the Navy. ~~It was~~ Q all a myth! - ~~xxxx~~

There never was any such aircraft carrier ~~or such a~~ ~~sinking~~

says a dispatch from the Coast.

A still taller tale was recited as follows:

"The Army sent out five hundred bombers, intercepted a Japanese invasion force four hundred miles off the Golden Gate, and sank everyone of the ships. But,"

the rumor went on, "the army won't announce it,

because we want the Japs to be puzzled at what became of their fleet." *It was it so, says ~~the~~ Washington.*

Then there was this one, which certainly might

have caused a scare if its publication had been

"That permitted: *^* The Japs had secret airfields in the desert of Nevada; *that* ~~was~~ a mystery force of enemy planes flew in from the Pacific and landed there, *east* ~~in Nevada~~. *A Reno.*

They were all set to blast the cities on the coast -

the Jap idea being that the California aircraft defenses

would be taken by surprise because they wouldn't expect

Japanese planes from that direction, not flying from inland."

The prettiest and most decorative of all the *high-powered rumors that were hidden by censorship* gave an explanation of a "practice" anti-aircraft

barrage at Los Angeles. "Japanese planes came over,"

it was whispered, "and dropped a lot of Japanese

lanterns. That's what the guns were firing at."

It rather stuns one to think how any imagination could concoct that one - the Mikado's planes dropping gayly glimmering Japanese lanterns on Los Angeles. *What fun. But it wasn't done,*

SOUTH AMERICA

An answer was made tonight to the charges issued by Senator Butler of Nebraska, ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~Senator~~, after a trip to the southern republics, declared that this country is engaged in a six billion boondoggling operation in Latin-America. ~~The Senator blazed away at our policy of spending money south of the Rio Grande, and insisted that the whole thing was an attempt to create a gigantic Latin American W.P.A.~~

The answer ^{is given} ~~tonight is made~~ by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who employs his usual vigorous verbiage.

"It is distressing," ~~says~~ ^{says} the Secretary, "that, at a time when the nation is engaged in gigantic efforts to defeat the assassins of civilization, ~~that a~~ wholly ^{unwarranted} ~~indispensable~~ attack should be levelled at a policy so universally acclaimed."

The Secretary referred with approval to the

figures given by Senator McKellar of Tennessee, who stated that in the past three years, the money we spent in South America amounts not to six billion dollars but to a mere three hundred and twenty-four million. ~~And McKellar hinted that the Butler charges were political and were aimed in the direction of next year's election.~~

Today Secretary Hull contended that the cash we have put into Latin-America is money well spent. He pointed out the way we use Brazilian airports for ferrying bombers across the ocean - a thing that was particularly important when Rommel's Afrika Korps was hammering at the gates of Egypt.

And the Secretary goes on to list a whole series of wartime benefits that we have derived from the southern republics, in which we have spent the money.

SUBSIDY

An attempt to arrive at a compromise in the subsidy program broke down ~~today~~ ^{tonight}. The ~~the lower House of Congress has voted to outlaw the payment of subsidies to feed producers, and now it's up to the Senate. The Administration wants subsidies in the most determined way, and the Senate~~ ^{has} made a try for a middle-of-the-road agreement by appointing a sub-committee to work out a compromise. ~~and~~ Tonight the sub-committee ^{scored a flat} ~~broke up in~~ ^{failure.} ~~disagreement. The attempt to form a compromise is a blank failure,~~ and the latest is a statement by Democratic Leader Senator Barkley of Kentucky. "The whole issue," says he, "will have to be thrashed out on the Senate floor." And that means a knockdown and drag-out battle ranging around the White House plea for subsidies paid to food producers as a way for keeping down the cost of living - and inflation.

FLU

The flu epidemic is still spreading, but we are given the hope that it will soon decline.

The health commissioner of Detroit tells us that about ten per cent of the population of the country has been hit.

Washington reports a hundred thousand cases of the mild form of influenza that is prevalent, and we hear that twenty per cent of the members of Congress have it.

~~On the opposite side of the country,~~ The production of motion pictures at Hollywood has been disrupted - because of the many ~~motion picture players,~~ ^{Film stars,} directors and technicians who are laid up at home or in hospitals.

~~The~~ optimistic side of the matter was expressed today by Dr. James G. Cumming, head of the Government Bureau of Preventable Disease^s. He said there would probably be an increase of the flu ^{and} for a few days, ¹ that ~~with~~ the crises of the epidemic would be reached in a

short time, and would then be followed by a quick

decline. (Another medical authority links the expected

decline with cold weather. He explains that frosty

temperatures will check the prevalence of ^{that} a mild

influenza - which is no deadly plague but which is a

pestilential nuisance.

SCHOOL MARM

These are the days of the heroism of soldiers and sailors, fighter plane pilots and aerial gunners. So there hardly seems time in a news account to tell about - the school marm. That lady, so starchy and prim, ~~according to tradition~~ - the school teacher.

Yet tonight at Gilmore City, Iowa, there is grief and homage for the heroism of the principal of the local school, Mrs. Elmer Edginton, who for twenty years taught the children of the town.

Today there was a flash ~~of~~ fire in the school at Gilmore City, and in a terrifying ~~short~~ short time the building was wrapped in ~~smoke~~ flames - with the firemen handicapped by weather ~~of~~ ten below zero. ~~The~~ The pupils all got out safely - everybody was certain about that, ^{as} ~~and~~ the last of the children streamed through the doors. That is, everybody was sure except the school marm. She was afraid that a child might still be left

3/2 in the burning building, and she turned and went back,
~~to~~ ^{to} ~~to look around and~~ see, - just to be sure. She never
emerged, ~~she~~ Perished in the flames - ~~the~~ victim of her
loyalty to her school teacher's duty.

44 filed The irony is that all the children really had
~~out~~ out, not one missing - only the school marm.

And now -

ALIMONY

Court proceedings concerning alimony due to ex-wives are common enough, but it ^{is} odd to hear of an alimony court-martial. Yet that is what is being held at San Francisco, where a United States Army captain is being tried for conduct unbecoming to an officer. The unbecoming part of it is the non-payment of alimony. ~~He has refused to pay alimony to his ex-wife.~~

Captain Lindsey C. Howard is of a gilded social family. His father was prominent in the world of the turf, and the son is associated with Bing Crosby in a racing stable. He was divorced some while ago, and ^{then} remarried - his second bride being a movie starlet, Judith Barrett. The alimony awarded to Wife Number One ~~is~~ was at the rate of twelve hundred and fifty dollars a month. And failure to pay this has run the arrears up to thirty thousand dollars. ^{TR} This the ex-wife demands,

and the alimony affair has resulted in ^{an alimony} a court-martial on the traditional charge of "conduct unbecoming to an officer." The accused captain contends that he does not owe the money ~~ix~~ because his ex-wife is really remarried - with a secret wedding in Mexico. That he is

trying to prove before the military court. An unusual thing - an alimony court martial.

Here's the latest: - the Captain^{is} acquitted - by twelve fellow officers.