

Strike Vote By Maritime Miners Predicted: President Freeman Jenkins told the convention of the United Mine Workers (C.C.I.), District No. 26, that a strike vote among 13,000 coal miners in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick probably will be taken within the next four weeks. They would be asked whether they would sanction a strike if, in the opinion of union officials, a satisfactory settlement of the union's 10-point wages-hours program cannot otherwise be obtained.

The program calls for a \$2.50 increase in daily wages plus a 15 cent boost for cutters, shooters and loaders working at the coal face on tonnage rates. Present basic wages are \$5.84 a day for a 44-hour week. The miners also seek a 40-hour week. (CP)

Amateur Radio Frequencies Released: The Air Services Branch of the Department of Transport has announced the release to amateur radio operators of the last of the frequencies which had been taken from them for use by the services during the war.

Effective November 2, the remainder of the 7000 to 7300 and the 14000 to 14400 kilocycle radio frequency bands revert back to Canadian amateur radio stations on the same radiotelegraphy basis as before the war.

Canadians Donate Meat: The Food Information committee reports that Meat ration coupons voluntarily donated by Canadians in the first two weeks of October have made approximately 250,000 pounds of meat available for export to the United Kingdom and Europe. Reports received from 21 out of 31 ration Branch Offices showed a total of 108,574 meat coupons received between October 1 and October 15, bringing to over 1,400,000 the number of coupons donated in the last six months.

Army Canteen and Mess Funds Deposited: Maj.-Gen. E.G. Weeks, the Adjutant-General, says that a total of \$6,500,000 accumulated during the war from army canteen and messes has been deposited in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada. He told the Military Engineers Association of Canada that, if Defence Department suggestions are followed, the money will be used to provide organization grants to help army units establish themselves in peacetime, establish scholarships for veterans' sons and provide "some kind" of benevolent fund for needy veterans who cannot qualify for assistance under existing provisions. Included was about \$36,000 from the British government as the army's share of profits from troopship canteens up to 1942. (CP)

Substantial Increase in Employment: There was a substantial increase in industrial employment generally in Canada at the beginning of September, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics says in its monthly review of employment payrolls. Although industrial disputes continued to be an important factor, settlement of some strikes contributed to the upward movement, which was also seasonal in character. Expansion took place in all provinces, and very generally in manufacturing, as well as in most of the non-manufacturing industries.

The staffs of the 16,087 establishments in the eight leading industries participating in the monthly survey aggregated 1,793,875 compared with 1,768,001 at the beginning of August. The increase of 25,874 workers, or 1.5 per cent, was larger than that at September 1 in any other year since 1940, and also considerably exceeded the average increase at that date in the period since 1920.

August Coal Production Higher: Canadian mines produced 1,346,087 tons of coal in August, an increase of 12 per cent over the corresponding month last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Aggregate output for the first eight months of the current year was 11,549,896 tons, an advance of seven per cent.

Benning Appeals Sentence: Bail of \$6,000 has been set for J.S. Benning, former Munitions Department official, pending decision on his appeal against conviction on a charge of communicating confidential information to Russia. Benning was sentenced to five years in penitentiary. (CP)