

**WORLD'S NO. 1 PROBLEM:** Shortages of food are the world's No. 1 economic problem according to a survey of world economic conditions submitted to the U.N. Economic and Social Council by the Economic Affairs Department of the U.N. Secretariat.

The report states that two years after the end of the war, the world is producing less than it did a decade earlier for a population now 200 million greater. While the economic potential of the U.S.A. increased enormously during the war, that of many other production centres was diminished considerably. This shift in the world's production facilities is at the root of the present dollar shortage. In the long run, the report adds, this dollar shortage can be eliminated only by increased production outside the U.S.A. and by the willingness of the U.S.A. to accept imports from other countries.

**IMCO CONFERENCE:** L.C. Audette of the Canadian Maritime Commission will be Canadian delegate at a meeting of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, February 19.

Accompanying Mr. Audette will be Norman Wilson, Chief of Aids to Navigation, Department of Transport, as alternate delegate and adviser; A.L. McCallum of the Canadian Shipping Federation, Montreal, as senior technical adviser; J.F. Frederickson, Montreal, acting secretary of the Canadian Maritime Commission, as adviser; and Miss L. Gougeon as secretary to the delegation.

Heading the agenda of the IMCO meeting is consideration of a draft constitution for the permanent body drawn up at the meeting of the provisional body held in Washington and Paris.

Other matters on the agenda will cover scope and purpose of IMCO, its relation to other specialized bodies of the United Nations, and activities and arrangements for the interim period.

**WORLD FISHING INDUSTRY NEEDED:** Need for development of the world fishing industry was emphasized by Dr. R.B. Finn, director of the Fisheries Division of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at an East Coast fisheries conference in Quebec City, February 3, reports the U.N. Press Service.

"The best figures obtainable show that the population of the world in 1938 was 2,172 million," Dr. Finn said. "In the short period to 1946 this figure has risen to 2,295 million; that is, an increase of 5.7 per cent. It is estimated that, if the present trend continues, the population of Asia alone would increase 400,000,000 during the next 29 years."

Particularly in Asia, Dr. Finn pointed out, where nutritive standards are very low, population pressures already limit the effectiveness of agricultural production, and it is unlikely that even improved methods and irriga-

tion will enable the agriculture of that area to supply the protein foodstuffs needed to cope even in a minimum way with the increase in population. On the other hand, they have the sea whose richness for the most part is unmeasured, and a technology which is relatively undeveloped.

To stimulate and guide the work of assessing and managing the resources of the sea, F.A.O. proposes to set up a number of regional councils and the first of these will be the council for the Indo-Pacific Ocean. On February 23 representatives of governments concerned will meet at Baguio, in the Philippine Islands, to initiate this council, whose first function will be to collect information about the resources of the area to focussing the attention of member governments on the further development and wise use of the fisheries of that area.

## SECURITY COUNCIL

**GEN. MCNAUGHTON PRESIDES:** During February, under the monthly rotation system General A.G.L. McNaughton (Canada) presides at meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

The Council, February 3, resumed consideration of the issue between India and Pakistan.

Gen. McNaughton, who was in the chair commented on the fact that the debate on Kashmir had been interrupted by the death of Mohandas Gandhi.

"As we resume our discussions on the India-Pakistan question, may I be permitted, as president of the Security Council, to express the hope that we may all be inspired by the spirit of that great man who dedicated his whole life to the cause of peace and freedom", Gen. McNaughton said.

He then called upon the two representatives of India and Pakistan to come to the table and make their arguments in support of resolutions they have submitted asking UN intercession to establish peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir.

N. Gopoloswami Ayyangar (India) submitted two draft resolutions for the consideration of the Council. One resolution asked the Council to recommend to the government of Pakistan "to use all their efforts to persuade the tribesmen... who have invaded Kashmir, to withdraw from that territory", to prevent the passage of invaders through Pakistan territory and in general to deny any and all assistance to the invaders. The other stipulates that the plebiscite in Kashmir on the question of accession to India or Pakistan "be taken under the advice and subject to the observation of persons appointed by the Council."

**INDONESIAN GOOD OFFICES:** Justice Richard C. Kirby of Australia, Paul Van Zeeland of Belgium and Dr. Frank Graham Porter of the United States, members of the Security Council's Committee of Good Office, who arrived

in New York from Indonesia last Sunday, paid a call February 3 on Gen. A.G.L. McNaughton, president of the Security Council.

The committee is at present completing its report to the Security Council on the results of its negotiations with the representatives of the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia, which led to the signing of the truce agreement on January 17 aboard the USS Renville. It is expected that the report will be concluded early next week.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

**QUESTION OF VOTING RIGHTS:** The UN Economic and Social Council meeting at Lake Success N.Y. February 3 decided, by a vote of nine to eight with one abstention, to grant voting rights to non-members of the United Nations which attend a conference to be called to consider the establishment of an inter-governmental maritime commission.

In a resolution of March 28, 1947 approving the convening of a conference to consider establishment of an inter-governmental maritime organization, the Economic and Social Council instructed the Secretary-General to invite all members of the UN and certain other governments to participate. The Council did not then indicate whether the non-member states would have the right to vote but left decision to the current session.

In the division of February 3, Canada voted against. The vote was:

**For Voting Rights:** Australia, Byelorussia, France, Lebanon, Peru, Poland, USSR, U.K., Venezuela.

**Against:** Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, Turkey, U.S.A.

**Abstained:** Chile.

**MONACO APPLICATION:** The Economic and Social Council, February 3, gave preliminary consideration to the application of the principality of Monaco for admission to UNESCO, but postponed final action to a later stage during the current session. Several delegates suggested that the Council might need more information as to the advantages of admitting a "diminutive" state like Monaco to a specialized agency.

Dr. C.F. Davidson, Canadian deputy Minister of National Health and Welfare, said he did not believe the Council should commit itself to any stand yet concerning Monaco and suggested instead that UNESCO should first state whether it considered Monaco's membership desirable.

The Council began general discussion of the Social Commission's report.

**UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS INCREASE:** Claims for unemployment insurance benefit in December totalled 79,849 compared with 47,372 in November and 59,086 in December, 1946. Revised

claims -- reconsiderations of existing claims -- constituted 6,271 of the December total, 4,987 in November and 6,507 in December, 1946. Thus, initial and renewal claims, representing new cases of unemployment recorded among insured persons, increased by 31,195 in December over November and 21,099 in December, 1947 compared with December, 1946.

## POWERS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

**INDIAN GIFT TO ROYAL BRIDE:** Two gold bracelets, richly carved and bearing insignia of the legendary powers of heaven and earth, are on their way to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth from the members of the Indian Band at Hartley Bay, British Columbia, as an expression of loyalty on the occasion of her recent marriage.

Despatched to Ottawa by Indian Agent F.E. Anfield, who received them from a delegation of the Hartley Band headed by Chief Heber Lewis Clifton, the bracelets have been sent to the Department of Secretary of State by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, and will be forwarded for presentation to Princess Elizabeth through the appropriate agencies.

An interpretation of the legend, carved on the bracelets by the Indians, will also be presented to Princess Elizabeth. It reads in part:

Only the descendants of the Sun, only Royalty can wear such bracelets, symbolical of the twin powers of heaven and earth. The Indians of the North Pacific Coast are matriarchial in line of descent, and power is dominant in the women. This is the first time in the history of the Indians of the Pacific that the twin powers of heaven and earth are bestowed on the Powers that have controlled them so long. In this gift the people of Hartley, by their Chief, wish to bestow these powers on the Princess who one day may rule them as queen.

Hartley Bay, in the Skeena River Indian Agency eighty-seven miles south of Prince Rupert, has a population of approximately 148 Indians. Chief Clifton is regarded as one of the outstanding Indians on the British Columbia Coast.

**COST-OF-LIVING INDEX UP:** The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, advanced a further 2.3 points from 146.0 to 148.3 between December 1, 1947 and January 2, 1948. The increase in this series between January, 1947 and January 1948, has amounted to 21.3 points. Group indexes for foods, home furnishings and services, and miscellaneous items contributed a predominant proportion of the rise for the month ending January 2, 1948.