

LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES: At the beginning of 1949 there were 600 Labour-Management Production Committees in operation in Canada, 57 more than at the beginning of 1948, it was shown by a report of the Labour-Management Co-operation Service of the Department of Labour, issued on April 28 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

In the first three months of 1949, 22 new committees were added to the list and seven deleted making the total 615 at March 31, 1949. This was a substantial increase from the 543 committees in operation at the beginning of 1948 and showed an increasing recognition by both management and labour of the mutual benefits to be gained by joint consultation on production problems, Mr. Mitchell pointed out.

The Labour-Management Co-operation Service, of the Industrial Relations Branch, Department of Labour, sponsors the formation of these committees in industry.

The Committees are made up of representatives from management and labour and function in an advisory capacity on all matters affecting industrial productive efficiency. They do not deal with subjects covered by collective bargaining agreements.

A breakdown by industrial groups of the 600 committees in operation at January 1, 1949, showed that recognition of the value of these committees was not confined to any specific industry. The list showed manufacturing with 365 committees, involving 160,470 workers; mining, 41 committees, involving 25,066 workers; communications, 41 committees, involving 10,537 workers; service, 22 committees, involving 12,494 workers; and transportation, 121 committees, involving 56,606 workers.

Among the industries making up the total for the manufacturing group were: textile products, 24 committees; pulp and paper products, 40 committees; lumber and its products, 22 committees; edible plant products, 29 committees; leather products, 23 committees; iron and its products, 93 committees; chemicals and allied products, 22 committees; electrical apparatus, 19 committees.

In the communications category, the telephone industry had 33 committees involving 7,092 workers.

In the construction industry although there were only two committees, 8,840 workers were involved. In retail and wholesale trade there were seven committees involving 1,819 workers.

The largest representation in the transportation industry was steam railways, with 103 committees, involving 51,031 workers.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: The first shipment of the millions of dollars worth of goods from 34 different countries, now enroute to the 1949 Canadian International Trade Fair was delivered to the Trade Fair grounds, April 22, in the guise of British dockside, self-propelled and truck-mounted cranes. The British machinery and plant equipment manufacturers

will be represented more completely than firms from any other single country at the Trade Fair in this category as part of an accelerated program to capture the Canadian market in this field.

The Gilpin Commission, which recently toured Canada, reported to the British machinery industry that Canada offered a solid and expanding market in the long term sense, for engineering equipment.

Harold Wilson, President of the British Board of Trade in encouragement of the manufacturers said: "There is no more important market for U.K. goods than Canada. The whole weight and encouragement of the Board of Trade and other departments concerned will be behind them in their efforts to get bigger and better business in Canada."

Firms competing in this category will exhibit products from Canada, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, England, Scotland, United States, Switzerland, France, and Italy.

FISHING INDUSTRY: Total catch and landed value of sea fish were lower in March than in the corresponding month last year, due to a sharp falling-off in landings on the Atlantic coast where the catch of most kinds and especially of sardine herring was lower. The quantity caught on the Pacific was about doubled, with marked increases over March last year in herring, rockfishes and clams.

According to the Bureau of Statistics the catch of all species on both coasts in March was 23,808,000 pounds, down 22 per cent from March last year. This brought the cumulative total for the first quarter of the year to 191,419,000 pounds, or 20 per cent from the same period of 1948. The value in March was \$1,217,000 compared with \$1,460,000, and in the first quarter, \$5,028,000 compared with \$5,665,000.

Landings on the Atlantic in March amounted to 16,855,000 pounds valued at \$1,009,000 compared with 27,088,000 pounds valued at \$1,258,000, and in the first quarter, 47,365,000 pounds valued at \$2,850,000 compared with 58,827,000 pounds valued at \$3,443,000.

The catch on the Pacific in March totalled 6,953,000 pounds with a value of \$208,000 compared with 3,310,000 pounds valued at \$202,000. In the first quarter, landings amounted to 144,054,000 pounds valued at \$2,188,000 compared with 181,189,000 pounds valued at \$2,222,000.

U.S. ARMY BAND RETURNS: The United States Army Band which last year delighted thousands of Canadians in Montreal, Kingston and Ottawa, will arrive in Quebec City May 13 for a second series of Army Week concerts. Defence authorities have announced.

While in Canada, the band will visit Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Camp Borden and Hamilton.

REPORTED IN PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

INDIA ANNOUNCEMENT: The House of Commons greeted with applause the announcement by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, on the evening of April 27, that India had decided to remain as a full partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Mr. Drew, made appreciative comments.

The text of the Prime Minister's announcement was as follows:-

"During the past week the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan, and Ceylon, and the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs have met in London to exchange views upon the important constitutional issues arising from India's decision to adopt a republican form of constitution and her desire to continue her membership of the Commonwealth.

"The discussions have been concerned with the effects of such a development upon the existing structure of the Commonwealth and the constitutional relations between its members. They have been conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding, and have had as their historical background the traditional capacity of the Commonwealth to strengthen its unity of purpose, while adapting its organization and procedures to changing circumstances.

"After full discussion the representatives of the Governments of all the Commonwealth countries have agreed that the conclusions reached should be placed on record in the following declaration:

"The Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon, whose countries are united as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations and owe a common allegiance to the Crown, which is also the symbol of their free association, have considered the impending constitutional changes in India.

"The Government of India have informed the other Governments of the Commonwealth of the intention of the Indian people that under the new constitution which is about to be adopted India shall become a sovereign independent Republic. The Government of India have however declared and affirmed India's desire to continue her full membership of the Commonwealth of Nations and her acceptance of the King as the symbol of the free association of its independent member nations and as such the Head of the Commonwealth.

"The Governments of the other countries of the Commonwealth, the basis of whose membership of the Commonwealth is not hereby changed, accept and recognize India's continuing membership in accordance with the terms of this Declaration.

"Accordingly, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India,

Pakistan and Ceylon hereby declare that they remain united as free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations, freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress."

"These constitutional questions have been the sole subject of discussion at the full meetings of Prime Ministers."

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Parliament and the public for several weeks. My colleagues and I have reached the conclusion that no important public interest would suffer if the rest of the business forecast for the present session of Parliament should be postponed until later this year. It is pretty evident that until a general election is held it will be difficult for hon. members on both sides of the House not to give a good deal of attention to the forthcoming election; and probably it would not be an exaggeration to say that already some of the debates in the House have become tinged by the approach of an election campaign....

"In view of the very considerable changes in the membership of the administration, that in itself might be thought a sufficient reason for holding an early election. But there is a much more important reason still. It is that about one-third of a million people have been added to the population of our country. There is no doubt that one of the principal reasons why the people of Newfoundland voted for union with Canada was that they wished once more to be self-governing. Since every measure adopted by the present Parliament applies to Newfoundland as much as it does to the older provinces, it is desirable to take the earliest possible means of ensuring that the people of Newfoundland are represented in Canada and share, through their representatives, in making its decisions...."

STEEL INGOT OUTPUT: Canadian steel mills turned out record tonnages of steel ingots in March, exceeding the high levels of recent months by a considerable margin. Reflecting the growth in output, cumulative figures for the first quarter rose eight per cent over the comparatively high totals for the same period of 1948.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, the month's output of steel ingots advanced to 287,885 short tons from 249,009 in the preceding month and 275,349 in the same month last year. Output for the first quarter of 1949 aggregated 812,881 short tons compared with 753,300 a year earlier.

The daily average output for March reached the high total of 9,286 short tons compared with 8,893 in February and 8,882 in March last year. Daily average for the first quarter was 9,032 tons.