

CABINET CHANGES: Following a meeting of the Cabinet on September 17, the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, announced two Cabinet changes and several other appointments, as follows:

Mr. Jean Lesage, Member of Parliament for Montmagny-L'Islet since 1945, Finance Parliamentary Assistant, to be Minister of Resources and Development.

Mr. Robert H. Winters to be Minister of Public Works, with continued ministerial direction of the Trans-Canada Highway and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Major-General Hugh A. Young, present Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, to be Deputy Minister of Public Works as from November 15.

Mr. Robert B. Bryce, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance and Secretary of the Treasury Board, to be Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary of the Cabinet, as from January 1 next.

Mr. Robert Gordon Robertson, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet to be Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, as from November 15.

The first session of the new, 22nd Parliament elected on August 10, will open on Thursday, November 12, Mr. St. Laurent stated.

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GATT DELEGATION: The Department of External Affairs announced on September 16 that the Eighth Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade opens at Geneva on September 17th. The Canadian Delegation will be composed as follows:

Chairman: Right Honourable C.D. Howe; Vice-Chairman: Mr. L.D. Wilgress, Canadian Representative to NATO and OEEC.

Delegates: Dr. C.M. Isbister, Director, International Trade Relations Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce; Mr. L.E. Couillard, Office of the Canadian High Commissioner, London; Mr. S.S. Reisman, Department of Finance; Mr. B.G. Barrow, Department of Trade and Commerce; and Mr. A.R. Kilgour, Department of External Affairs.

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JULY AUTO SHIPMENTS UP: Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles rose again in July, the month's total amounting to 48,691 units as compared with 34,314 in the corresponding month last year. This brought the cumulative total for the first seven months of 1953 to 332,389 units as compared with 265,911 a year earlier.

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FARM PRICES SAG: Substantially lower prices for live stock and a fractional decline in grain prices more than offset higher prices for potatoes, dairy products and poultry and eggs, resulting in a drop in Canada's July index of farm prices of agricultural products to 244.9 as compared with 249.9 in June.

METEOROLOGICAL CONFERENCE: Addressing the "leaders of modern meteorology", the Minister of Transport, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, on September 14 welcomed delegates from the Royal Meteorological Society and the American Meteorological Society to a conference being held in Toronto, the headquarters of the Canadian Meteorological Services of the Department of Transport. The Minister expressed the view that there were "more outstanding meteorologists present than had ever gathered before at any place in the world" and said, "I am sure that this compliment is much appreciated."

The Minister referred to studies being made by the Conference on the modification of clouds and the possibilities of making rain and said that "this possibility of man-made weather and particularly the modification of clouds and fog could have a tremendous impact on both civil and military services." With continuing attack on the problem of weather "spectacular progress is by no means impossible", said the Minister who thought a boon would be given to mankind "if we ever reach the stage where a season's weather can be forecast in advance." While he thought that this may not be possible for many years to come, "continued research will lead to a steady improvement in the accuracy of present forecasts, perhaps also in the length of the period for which we can forecast with any degree of assurance."

Indicating an intimate appreciation of the benefits of research and investigation in the many fields of meteorology, Mr. Chevrier drew attention to the fact that development of the Comet aircraft, operating at levels of 30,000 to 40,000 feet "requires knowledge of high-level winds" and that new type aircraft with a small tolerance of fuel, must have accurate terminal weather forecasts well in advance.

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HOUSING UPSWING: The 1953 upswing in new housing construction went into its seventh month in July with the number of units started up 35 per cent to 11,834 from 8,759 in the same month last year, and the number of units completed up 45 per cent to 6,828 from 4,715. In the seven-month comparison, starts were running 33 per cent ahead of last year at 58,580 against 44,050 and were 13,992 above the corresponding 1951 total of 44,588, while completions were in front by 40 per cent at 46,319 against 33,055 and were 2,699 above 1951's 43,620.

Builders cut the average construction time in July for the seventh straight month this year, the 6.4 months average comparing with 7.4 months in the preceding month and 6.9 months in July last year. The July average construction time was the lowest yet recorded this year.