

CONGRESS ON RHEUMATIC DISEASES: Canadian doctors will figure prominently among the more than 150 physicians from 25 foreign countries attending the seventh International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, May 30 to June 3, the headquarters of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society announced on May 27. Along with more than 400 American doctors they will participate in the largest clinical and scientific meeting ever held for the study of these diseases. The world's leading authorities will report advances in the treatment of arthritis, rheumatism, rheumatic fever, gout and allied diseases.

They will hear the first full report on the revolutionary use of Compound E by Dr. Philip S. Hench and his colleagues at the Mayo Clinic, the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society reports.

Lord Horder, from London, England, will describe the United Kingdom's plans for treating rheumatic diseases as a national problem. Other major papers include one by Dr. Gunnar Edstrom of Sweden on effects obtained from an artificial, hot, dry climate, and a report by Dr. Jacques Forestier of France on copper salt treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

The Congress will hear experts from Europe, South America, Mexico, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, as well as prominent American rheumatologists. The meeting is sponsored by the International League Against Rheumatism, with the support of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, the United States Public Health Service and other organizations.

SENIOR NAVAL APPOINTMENTS: Changes in three senior Royal Canadian Navy appointments were announced on May 27 by Naval Headquarters.

Commodore Horatio Nelson Lay, O.B.E., 46, of Ottawa, formerly Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Plans) and (Air), will assume the duties of Naval Member of the Canadian Joint Staff and Canadian Naval Attaché in Washington, D.C., on July 15. He will succeed Commodore V.S. Godfrey, O.B.E., of Ottawa, whose previously announced appointment as Commodore Newfoundland takes effect on the same date.

Until he takes up his Washington appointment Commodore Lay will carry out the duties of Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Plans). Captain C.N. Lentaigne, D.S.O., of Ottawa, Director of Naval Aviation, has been appointed Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Air).

Commodore Roger E.S. Bidwell, C.B.E., 49, of Peterborough, Ontario, and Halifax, at present Naval Member of the Directing Staff at the National Defence College, Kingston, will succeed Commodore Lay as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Plans) when the latter goes to Washington.

1949 RADAR EXPERIMENTS: With the opening of navigation on the Great Lakes and other Canadian inland waterways, the National Research Council's motor vessel "Radel" is launching her 1949 program of radar experiments.

Blind navigation by means of the prototype model of a merchant marine radar, recently developed in the National Research Laboratories, again heads the list of projects.

A particularly valuable feature of the new radar is its short minimum detection range, which is less than 25 yards. This advantage was demonstrated on last year's trips, when the captain steered the "Radel" through the restricted waters of the Rideau, the St. Clair and the Detroit Rivers, from a radar control-switch below deck. This year, the "Radel" will be used for trials designed to reduce the minimum detection range even further by means of very fast sweeps; this would enable a vessel to enter narrow harbour gaps and to dock at crowded piers without needing visual aid.

Since the "Radel" is actually a floating laboratory, she carried additional apparatus to investigate special radar problems. This year, for instance, equipment is being prepared for initial tests on a microwave "lighthouse" which would make it possible for a ship to take a very accurate bearing on a shore beacon regardless of weather conditions.

For radar-equipped vessels, the beacon would be visible as a ray of light across the radar display screen; vessels without radar could take a bearing on this radio "lighthouse" by means of a simple receiver and a directional antenna, using a normal triangulation technique.

Both the transmitter on shore and the ship-borne receiver will be simple and compact; in addition, the receiver will be portable and fairly inexpensive.

Plans have also been made to test a more complex beacon system and to evaluate the relative merits of the two systems.

Another original project for this season is work on coded reflector buoys. The object is to modify ordinary radar reflectors so that their echo may be alternated at will in a pre-arranged code sequence by providing the reflectors with switching devices so as to make them non-reflecting at a periodic rate.

Features along the shore line, channel markers, and other points on routes of navigation often look too much alike for positive identification from aboard ship. But if coded reflectors are installed on these points, the ship will receive a characteristic signal from each of them. The ship's course may then be chartered with assurance.

AIR TRANSPORT DISCUSSIONS: The Department of External Affairs released on May 30 the text of a joint announcement by the Canadian and United States delegations to the recent meeting held in New York for the purpose of considering revision of the bilateral air transport agreement between the two countries.

"The Canadian and United States delegations announced that the discussions which had been under way during the past week on the revision of the bilateral air transport agreement between the two countries had been recessed. They stated that the discussions would be resumed at an early date."

AIR FORCE DAY JUNE 11: Canada's annual Air Force Day will be held this year on Saturday, June 11, and the public is warmly invited to attend open house which will be held by RCAF stations across the country, it was announced on May 26 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

"This will be our third annual Air Force Day, and all Service members are hoping for even greater interest than in the case of the two previous events," said Mr. Claxton. "The main purpose of Air Force Day is to acquaint the Canadian public with the function of the RCAF and the activities of its flying and technical personnel. Above all, we want the Canadian people to meet the men of the RCAF, to see how they live and work, and to understand the constructive and important tasks they perform. I hope that everyone able will visit an RCAF station this year."

Hangars and buildings at Air Force stations will be open to the public, and special ground displays will show the jobs being done by the RCAF of today, and the equipment with which it works. Wherever possible, flying displays will be held, and sports and dances will be held on many stations.

JOBS IN OIL FIELDS: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced on May 30 that as a result of an enquiry made by the Trades and Labour Council of Edmonton and the Branch of the Canadian Legion of that city, he had received reports from the Employment Offices in Calgary and Edmonton in regard to the complaint that the labour field in the oil-drilling area near Edmonton was being over-run by importation of labourers from the United States.

The reports indicated that there were a number of drilling outfits which, by reason of the attractiveness of the new Edmonton Territory, had brought full crews from the United States, due largely to the fact that they had not known what the labour conditions would be like in Canada. The Minister pointed out that these drilling outfits had gradually changed their American crews to Canadian and in future it had been arranged that skilled men only

would come from the States and that the unskilled portion of the crew would be filled in with available Canadian labour.

The Department of Labour had been working very closely with the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources and a definite understanding had been reached with an association of oil-drilling operators, as a result of which Canadian workers would be fully protected, Mr. Mitchell said.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEYS: In announcing the 1949 field program of the Topographical Survey, the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson, stated that a total of fifty-seven parties have been assigned to this work.

The Topographical Survey of the Mines, Forests and Scientific Services Branch, is responsible for the original surveys for control of mapping from aerial photographs. This survey provides base maps for the development of Canada's mineral and other resources, and for the guidance and assistance of engineering projects in all parts of the country. Distribution of the field parties is:

Northwest Territories 5; Yukon, 11; British Columbia 15; Saskatchewan 1; party of 4 units; Manitoba 2; Ontario 1; Quebec 8; New Brunswick 6; Nova Scotia 6; Newfoundland 2.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP: Department store sales in Canada in April were up 15 per cent over the same month last year, with all provinces sharing in the advance. Increased sales were recorded for all departments except food and piece goods.

According to the Bureau of Statistics the month's sales were valued at \$74,969,000 as compared with \$65,018,000 a year earlier. Easter fell in March last year and in April this year, sales in the two-month period aggregating \$144,094,000 as compared with \$129,504,000 for the same period last year, a rise of 11 per cent.

NEWFOUNDLAND POPULATION: Figures released by the Bureau of Statistics resulting from the 1945 Census of Newfoundland and relating to marital status of the population show that 185,187 or over 57 per cent of the total population of 321,819 were single, 122,076 or almost 38 per cent were married and 14,428 or over four per cent were widowed. Fewer than a 100 persons were reported as divorced.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 19 amounted to 99,779,000 bushels, down 6,166,000 from the preceding week's total, but 39,800,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.