

be submitted to the conference when it resumes plenary sessions June 9.

During the opening sessions it is expected that statements will be presented by delegations of the various countries, and addresses heard from leaders in the food and agriculture world. It is hoped that Sir John Boyd-Orr, former Director-General of FAO, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, may be present.

Upwards of 100 delegates in all are expected, together with a large number of observers, and press representatives from Canada and other countries.

Under the auspices of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, a cross-Canada tour will be provided official delegates and their wives. The eastern portion of the tour will be run prior to the conference, and the western portion after the conference closes. The tour will be over CNR and CPR lines. Parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be visited, as well as Quebec and Ontario, with a three-day tour of Ontario just prior to the conference, under the auspices of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

During their visit to Ottawa on May 26, the delegates will be entertained at tea at Government House by the Governor-General and Lady Alexander.

There are twenty-two countries whose farmer organizations are members of the international federation. These include Canada, United States, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, India, China, Burma, Denmark, Southern Rhodesia, Kenya, Hungary, Western Germany, and Jamaica. In addition, a number of nations are sending observers.

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR:** United States firms that have reserved space for the 1949 Canadian International Trade Fair, to sell their products, will be able to convert any Canadian funds they accumulate, through the sale of their display products at the Trade Fair, into United States dollars. Customs procedure governing the entry of such display products to Canada has been simplified also.

The Canadian Government will give special authority, upon application, to sell any samples displayed at the Trade Fair, even such goods as are ordinarily on the prohibited list.

In respect of the conversion of Canadian to American funds the Foreign Exchange Control Board has ruled as follows:

"Last year the problem of collections from the sale of samples was handled quite simply by asking the exhibitor to open an account with a bank in Canada into which would be deposited the proceeds from the sale of samples. At the conclusion of the Fair, samples were cleared through Customs for consumption

in Canada and duties, if any, and other charges were paid by disbursement from the bank account. The exhibitor then presented the appropriate Customs document to the bank with an application for foreign exchange to the equivalent of the amount of Canadian dollars remaining. Little difficulty was experienced in carrying out this relatively simple technique."

Banking facilities will be available on the grounds.

Exhibition material being transported to the Trade Fair enters Canada in bond and remains so until the end of the Trade Fair, the Fair buildings being considered bonded warehouses. Customs authorities at border points have been instructed concerning this procedure and the normal operations have been modified accordingly.

Appropriate customs forms are forwarded to all exhibitors to facilitate Customs procedure on their samples.

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARTS:** The Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, forecast in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the present session, was appointed on April 8, it was announced by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent.

The Right Honourable Vincent Massey, P.C., C.H., Chancellor of the University of Toronto, will be Chairman of the Commission.

The other members are:  
Arthur Surveyer, Esq., B.A.Sc., C.E., D.Engn., LL.D. Civil Engineer, Montreal.  
Norman A.M. MacKenzie, Esq., C.M.G., K.C., LL.D., President, University of British Columbia.

The Reverend Georges-Henri Levesque, O.P., D.Sc. Soc., Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Laval University.

Miss Hilda Neatby, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of History and Acting Head of the Department, University of Saskatchewan.

**COMPLETED DWELLINGS:** There were about 1,000 more dwelling units completed in Canada during February this year than in 1948, while the number of units on which construction was begun was slightly lower, according to estimates by the Bureau of Statistics. Total completions and starts in the first two months of the year, however, were substantially higher than last year, and the number of units under construction at the end of February was over 11,000 greater than a year earlier.

Dwelling units completed in the month are put at 4,807 as compared with 3,778 in February last year, making an estimated total of 11,450 for the first two months of the year as against 7,514 in the same period of 1948. Number of units on which work was begun in February was 1,745 as compared with 1,894 last year, but owing to a large gain in starts in January the

total for the first two months increased to 4,811 as against 3,569 in 1948. At the end of February there were an estimated 49,667 units under construction compared with 38,270 at the same date last year.

The average length of time to build the dwelling units completed in February rose to 7.3 months from 7.0 months for those completed in January, and 6.4 for December. This appears to be the normal seasonal increase, according to the Bureau. Only 17 per cent of those finished in the month took longer than nine months to complete. Judging by the types of dwellings, as in 1948, one-fourth of those completed in the first two months this year are for rental purposes.

**U.S. DOLLAR HOLDINGS RISE:** The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on April 11 that Canada's reserves of gold and U.S. dollars had increased to \$1067 million as at March 31, the end of the last fiscal year. This compares with total holdings of \$608 million on March 31, 1948, and of approximately \$500 million at the time the emergency exchange conservation program was put into effect.

In keeping with the policy now being followed of reporting monthly figures after the end of each quarter, Mr. Abbott announced that holdings of gold and U.S. dollars had amounted to \$1022 million on January 31, 1949, and to \$1044 million on February 28, 1949.

The figures for the end of each quarter since the end of 1947 were as follows:

December 31, 1947	\$ 502 million
March 31, 1948	608 "
June 31, 1948	742 "
September 30, 1948	855 "
December 31, 1948	998 "
March 31, 1949	1067 "

**SHARE GUARD DUTIES:** Responsibility for providing guards of honour and co-ordinating all ceremonial functions in connection with Parliament, is to be rotated each calendar year between the RCAF and the Army. This year the RCAF is carrying the ball. Next year the responsibility will rest with the Army and the following year the RCAF again will handle the military end of state functions, Army Headquarters announces.

**STORE SALES:** Department store sales advanced 18 per cent during the week ending April 2 over the corresponding period last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Largest gain of 28 per cent was shown in the Maritime Provinces, followed by Quebec with a gain of 25 per cent, Ontario 17 per cent, Saskatchewan 15 per cent, Alberta 15 per cent, Manitoba 12 per cent, and British Columbia 12 per cent.

**COST-OF-LIVING:** There were declines in six of the eight regional city cost-of-living indexes between February 1 and March 1, and as in the preceding month, lower food prices were principally responsible. Clothing prices at most centres continued to average higher, while indexes for homefurnishings and services presented a varied pattern.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, the index number for Saint John fell 0.4 points to 155.8 between February 1 and March 1; Montreal, 0.4 to 162.0; Saskatoon, 0.4 to 161.6; Edmonton, 0.2 to 154.2; Toronto, 0.1 to 154.6; and Vancouver, 0.1 to 160.7.

The index for the city of Winnipeg remained unchanged at 153.8, while that for Halifax rose 0.2 to 152.3. The index for this latter centre was supported by higher quotations for fuel, clothing, and homefurnishings and services, which over-balanced lower foods. All-Canada index receded 0.3 to 157.9 between February 1 and March 1.

**\$879,600. SUPPLY VESSEL:** Construction of a lighthouse supply and buoy vessel for use in servicing Department of Transport facilities on the West Coast has commenced and the keel will be laid at the North Vancouver plant of Yarrows Limited on Saturday, April 16. The contract valued at \$879,600 was awarded to Yarrows on January 20 last.

**BRITISH FAIR OPENING:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, will be the principal speaker at a dinner marking the opening of the British Industries Fair in London, England, on May 2, it was announced in London by Right Hon. Harold Wilson, President of the United Kingdom Board of Trade.

Mr. Howe stated in Ottawa on April 11 that while in England he will have discussions with the British Government on various trade matters. Mr. Howe also indicated that he plans to visit the Birmingham section of the British Industries Fair, where he will meet with a group of British industrialists and engineers interested in the Canadian market. He will be accompanied by M.W. Mackenzie, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce.

**WHEAT STOCKS:** Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 31 amounted to 130,737,000 bushels, down 3,896,000 bushels from the March 24 total, but 42,634,000 bushels higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

During the week, farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 1,192,000 bushels of wheat as compared with 835,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 3,662,000 bushels compared with 1,208,000 a year ago.