

AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Not for Publication -- Not for Distribution in Canada

Vol. 7, No. 139

Thursday, July 28, 1949.

Agricultural Survey: The Agriculture Department, in its current economic survey of agricultural conditions, notes that the "intensified" exchange problem and "weakening" United States prices for some farm commodities have resulted in lower prices on the foreign market for Canadian farm products, the Canadian Press reports this morning in its analysis of the survey.

These factors also have influenced foreign demand for Canadian produce, but continuing high income of Canadian workers was keeping domestic demand strong.

Peak for Canadian farm prices was reached last August. Prices have declined gradually since then. In August last year the farm index, calculated on the basis 1935-39 equals 100, was 264.2. In April this year it was 251.3.

"This movement in the level of farm prices," said the Department,
"was followed by a decline in the general wholesale price level."

The wholesale price index, calculated on the basis that 1926 equals
100, reached an all-time high of 159.6 last December. In the succeeding
four months there was a gradual drop to 157.5 in April.

<u>Cancer Conference:</u> The Montreal Gazette reports this morning as follows from Montreal:

At least one third of all cancer sufferers can be cured.

This was learned Wednesday at a round table conference on malignant diseases at McGill University when Dr. T.A. Watson, Director of Cancer Services, Province of Saskatchewan, told some 40 cancer specialists that cancer of the skin and of the lip--representing about one-third of all cancers--is curable in better than 95 per cent of cases.

Dr. Watson reported to a meeting called at the Medical Building of the University to hear reports from four cancer specialists holding Kinsmen Club Fellowships of the Canadian Cancer Society and to hear the findings of leading cancer specialists across Canada.

Reports on the latest advances in the attack on cancer in major centres of Scandinavia, England, Scotland, France and the United States are being brought forward at the three-day conference which was opened Wednesday afternoon by Dr. Jonathan C. Meakins, C.B.E., President of the Canadian Cancer Society....

Seamen's Strike: Montreal, July 27 (CP) -- The Canadian Seamen's Union announced Wednesday that its national officers have "stepped out of the picture," leaving a rank-and-file committee to negotiate a settlement of the east-coast shipping strike.

The Union, which called the strike March 31 against the owners of 80-odd ships, said the committee will go to Ottawa seeking a conference with government officials about settlement. The strike began when shipowners dropped the allegedly Communist-led CSU and signed with the rival Seafarers! International Union (AFL).

Arthur MacNamara, Deputy Federal Labour Minister, to whom the Union has twice before sent strike-settlement proposals, declined comment on the move.