

its own 1946 figure. No definite figures are as yet available on pears, but the pack is known to be larger than in 1946.

Because a slackening in the demand for canned plums had become evident, canners cutback their production of this product in 1947 by about 13 per cent. The drop was not due to a crop shortage in any way.

In the vegetable pack, green and wax beans, showed the only improvement over 1946, gaining five per cent. Corn and peas each dropped by 31 per cent and tomatoes were down 17 per cent. Tomato juice, canned, decreased 22 per cent. Generally, however, there was a definite improvement in quality. Spinach and asparagus were packed in quantities about equal to that of 1946.

Poorer yields, even crop failure, accounted for most of the drop in quantity. A late, wet spring delayed seeding and planting with the result that some crops, notably corn and tomatoes, suffered up to a 50 per cent loss through the heavy frost that struck parts of Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia during the middle of last September.

In spite of the decrease in canned products there are still ample supplies of all types of canned fruits and vegetables to meet heavy consumer demands until late in 1948.

ITALIAN PROPERTY TAX: The Department of External Affairs has been advised by the Legation of Italy that the time limit for filing Special Property Tax declarations on the part of Italian and foreign nationals who are owners of property in Italian territory valued at 3,000,000 lire or more, elapsed on January 31, 1948. The Department has also been advised that a similar declaration is required in respect of property which, although it is valued at less than 3,000,000 lire, is in excess of 1,500,000 lire. The time for filing this latter declaration is extended to March 31, 1948.

It is suggested that all interested persons residing in Canada may wish to file their declarations at Italian Consulates, who will upon request, furnish the necessary forms and additional information. It should be emphasized that all communications in this matter should be addressed to the local Italian Consulate and not to the Department of External Affairs.

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION LOWER: Reflecting the low carry-over stocks of wheat at the beginning of the crop year and the relatively small wheat crop in the Prairie Provinces, wheat flour production dropped sharply in December to reach the lowest monthly total since July 1942. The Month's output amounted to 1,691,610 barrels compared with 2,159,483 in November and 2,350,040 in December, 1946. During the first five months of the current crop year, 11,275,780 barrels were produced

compared with 11,687,845 in the similar period of the preceding year.

Production during the calendar year 1947 aggregated 28,106,537 barrels, slightly higher than in the preceding year when 27,375,239 barrels were produced. Output in the western division totalled 14,252,637 barrels compared with 13,614,621, and in the eastern division, 13,853,900 barrels compared with 13,760,618.

FEWER APPLICANTS FOR JOBS: Records of the National Employment Service show that the winter falling off in employment has not been so severe this year as a year ago.

Although the number of winter unemployed has increased during the last month, the pressure for production continues high in many industries, and operations have pushed ahead in spite of seasonal handicaps. As a result unplaced applicants seeking employment at the offices of the National Employment Service are 10 per cent fewer than at the same time in 1947.

On the other hand, the outlook for 1948 in the employment field is bright, and the prospects are that jobs available will outnumber applicants in the summer of this year in several lines, just as was the case at the middle of 1947 when the employment office reported a shortage of 33,000 work seekers.

FUR PRICES UP: Price increases of 40 to 50 per cent on all types of short-haired fur over quotations of a year ago were noted in the recent \$130,000 Saskatchewan Fur Marketing Service sale. Manager Adam Cooke has announced in Regina. The sale was the first of the season.

An apparent shortage in supply of many types of short-haired furs was seen by Mr. Cooke as a possible reason for the rise in prices to the 1945-46 season level.

Strongest demand was for ermine, squirrel, wild mink, fisher, muskrat and otter. Top price paid for wild mink was \$63; for fisher, \$73; otter, \$49.50; marten, \$45; and ermine, double extra large western types, \$6.15, while extra large and large northern types brought \$3.30.

Prices paid for other furs were: muskrat, \$3.65; wolf, \$6.25; jack rabbit, 80 cents, and squirrel, 78 cents. Wolf and jack rabbit prices paralleled those of the January, 1947, sale.

Next general sale of the Saskatchewan Fur Marketing Service is scheduled for Feb. 27, with the last receiving date Feb. 16.

SAVINGS BOND PURCHASES: Purchases of Canada Savings Bonds, Series Two, to December 31, 1947 totalled \$267,375,850. They were made by 861,878 individuals.

Purchases of Canada Savings Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan, included in these totals, amounted to \$109,099,600 by 555,458 individuals.

DEATH OF G.W. SPINNEY: G.W. Spinney, who began his business career as a drug clerk and became president and chief executive of the Bank of Montreal and held directorates in seven of the Dominion's largest companies, died February 1 in the Ross Memorial Pavilion, Royal Victoria Hospital. He had been ill for some time. Mr. Spinney was in his 59th year.

NETHERLANDS WAR DAMAGE: The Department of External Affairs announces that the Netherlands Government has extended the benefits of its war damage compensation legislation to Canadians on a basis of equality with Netherlands

nationals. Damage must be reported before March 1, 1948 to the Commissariaat voo Oorlogsschade, Stadhouderslaan 130, The Hague.

Previous registration with any Canadian government department does not constitute the lodging of a claim with the competent Netherlands authorities, with whom the registration and subsequent correspondence must be carried on directly by the claimant.

Canadians are advised to submit claims in letter form as soon as possible giving a full description of the property damaged, the value of the property, and particulars of damage estimated at 1938 prices.

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

KOREAN LEADERS HEARD: Over the week, the UN Commission on Korea, meeting in Seoul, has been taking the views of Korean leaders.

To facilitate the work, two sub-committees were established. Sub-committee One (composed of Canada, France, Syria) which was appointed "to consider ways and means of ensuring a free atmosphere for elections in Korea", has been gathering necessary information through hearings and by the study of documents, laws and ordinances.

Sub-committee Two of the Commission (composed of Australia, China, France and the Philippines) has the task, among others, of securing statements from Korean personalities whose views might be helpful to the Commission, has given wide publicity to its desire to consult with Korean personalities in both South and North Korea.

The sub-committee published a preliminary list of such personalities it had in mind. This list was representative of different political points of view. It included Cho Man Sik of the democratic party, residing at Pyongyang in the Soviet Zone; Huh Hun, Chairman of the South Korea labour party; Doo Bong, Chairman of the North Korea labour party, which has filiated itself with the North Korea communist party; Kim Koo, a well known figure in the movement for Korean independence since 1919, and leader of the independence party; Kim Kyu Sik, the Chairman of the Interim Assembly and of the middle road party.

The sub-committee also placed on its list Kim Il Sung, vice Chairman of the North Korea labour party; Kim Syng Soo, Chairman of the democratic party; Pak Heum Young, General Secretary of the Korean communist party and Vice Chairman of the South Korean labour party; and Dr. Syngman Rhee, whose immediate objective is the holding of elections in South Korea as early as possible.

Those heard this past week by the sub-committee were: Dr. Syngman Rhee, Kim Koo, and Kim Kyu Sik.

The sub-committee is calling upon individual organizations of a religious, cultural and

political character to express their views in writing. They may recommend, if so desired, a representative for personal interview with the sub-committee.

Andrei A. Gromyko of the U.S.S.R. addressed a letter January 22 to Andre V. Cordier, Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in reply to a letter from the Chairman of the Korean Commission expressing a desire to visit the commander of the Soviet Zone in Korea. In his letter, Mr. Gromyko reminds Mr. Cordier of the "negative attitude taken by the Soviet Government towards the establishment of the U.N. Commission on Korea".

WORLD FUEL PRODUCTION: World production of fuel and power is today approximately 20 per cent above the 1937 level but the rate of growth during the past decade has varied considerably from continent to continent, according to a new index of world energy prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations and contained in the January issue of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.

Combined output in the United States and Canada of coal, lignite, petroleum, and hydro-electricity increased by 36 per cent between 1937 and the third quarter of 1947 and now accounts for 55 per cent of world production, compared with 46 per cent in 1937.

Production of fuel and power in Europe has gained steadily since the end of the war but is still 14 per cent short of its 1937 level. Europe's contribution to world output of fuel and power has dropped from 40 per cent in 1937 to 29 per cent in 1947.

The industrialization of Latin America during the past decade is reflected in the statistics on fuel and power output; current production, though relatively small in absolute terms, is nearly double pre-war production and now comprises almost 7 per cent of world output, compared with 4 per cent in 1937. Similar, if not as dramatic, increases have occurred in Asia, Africa, and Oceania.