

count from the official rate. If the regulations were altered as your Association suggests, this unofficial value for Canadian dollars in the hands of non-residents would immediately rise to a point only fractionally below the official parity. The only result would be that a large volume of Canadian dollars in the hands of various foreign investors and other persons would be used to pay for Canadian exports. It does not appear that the volume of Canadian exports would materially increase, but instead of receiving foreign exchange for these exports, we would simply allow the liquidation of foreign capital in Canada.

With regard to recommendation No. 7, the Government has already stated that it is willing to make the arrangements suggested with those countries now in receipt of E.R.P. assistance. It is part of such arrangements that the Canadian dollars so received by the foreign country concerned cannot be sold on the unofficial market in New York but must be used for making payments to Canada. The result...

GEN. MCNAUGHTON HONOURED: General A.G.L. McNaughton, CH, CB, CMG, DSO, has accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel Commandant in the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on June 7. He has been Honorary Colonel of the Corps since March, 1946, but now vacates that appointment to accept the senior one.

COST-OF-LIVING UP: Showing a slight upward movement for the second successive month, Canada's official cost-of-living index rose one-fifth of a point between April 1 and May 2, from 159.3 to 159.5. The March-April increase was one-tenth of a point, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

At the May 2 level, the index was 6.2 points above May last year, and one-tenth of a point below the peak figure of 159.6 touched three times -- at the first of October and November last year and January this year. From August, 1939 to May, 1949, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 58.2 per cent.

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES: Three universities, Western Ontario in London, Queen's in Kingston and Laval in Quebec City, have just been granted more than \$20,000 from the federal health grants for special research and the development of new medical services in neuro-pathology and cancer control, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin said on June 2.

is that Canadian dollars spent by Canadian travellers in such countries may very well result in an increase of Canadian exports to those countries. It is obvious, however, that such arrangements could not be extended to the United States or any other country which was not willing to enter into the necessary reciprocal obligation to Canada.

In conclusion, I cannot agree that Canada is on the road to ruin. Our exports are holding up better than those of most other countries.

As far as raw materials are concerned, our 1949 production is fully committed, with only minor exceptions. Few countries are in that happy position. I think that none of us expected the immediate post-war markets abroad for manufactured goods to last indefinitely.

I am hopeful that the steps that we are taking to work out a better trade balance with countries that are our traditional customers will continue to improve our situation.

Meantime, Canada's export trade is at peak levels, both for dollar value and for volume, which is something to be thankful for.

IMPORT CONTROL CHANGES: The Emergency Import Control Division announced on June 5 that the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, has authorized some adjustments in the emergency import controls which will modify restrictions on the importation of a considerable number of items in which British exporters have a particular interest.

The commodities affected are minor items such as vases, jardinières, fountain pens and propelling pencils, some ornaments, costume jewellery, some paper products, desk sets, picture and photograph frames, electric irons and some other small household appliances. No one of these is a large item of trade.

All these items may be imported from non-scheduled countries on and after July 1, 1949 under open general permit. At the same time holders of existing quota under Category 4 (Miscellaneous) of Schedule II will be permitted to import these commodities from scheduled countries against their existing quotas. In other words importers holding quotas in Category 4 will have a wider range of goods for which their quotas may be used, but they will not have larger quotas and hence no increase in total dollar expenditure is involved.

In scheduled countries from which the above goods may be purchased by Category 4 quota holders within their existing quotas are Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama, El Salvador, Switzerland, Russia, Venezuela and the United States.

The non-scheduled countries in which the same goods can be purchased under open general permit are all other countries not listed above.

DIMENSIONAL UNITS: Substantial progress toward producing a single set of dimensional units for use along the world's airways was announced on June 9 by the International Civil Aviation Organization. So far, 34 of the Organization's 52 member nations have agreed to take the first step in a plan designed to relieve the confusion in air-ground radio communication caused by the differing systems of measurement now employed in various countries. ICAO officials point out that, although this problem of weights and measures and distances being expressed in different units is not peculiar to aviation, the danger of a mistake or misunderstanding due to a multiplicity of measuring units is probably more real and more important to the pilots and crews of aircraft in flight than to anyone else.

The ICAO standardization plan consists of an agreement on five tables of units incorporating elements of both the metric and the foot-pound-second systems. One table uses the English system, the second the English system plus the measurement of air pressure in millibars rather than inches of mercury. The third table replaces statute miles with nautical miles, the common distance unit used in air navigation along international routes. The fourth employs the metric system entirely, and the fifth - and eventually final table - is a combination of the third and fourth, using the metric system for all purposes except that nautical miles would be used for long distances and for speeds. All five tables use the centigrade scale for temperature measurements.

The dimensional standardization plan provides for the progressive reduction of the number of tables until all ICAO member nations will be using table five for air-ground communication. This final table - the ICAO Table of Units - has already been accepted by no fewer than 16 nations. The gradual change-over takes into account the practical difficulties in altering national dimensional practices, particularly when the alteration involves a change from a familiar system of units to one which has no connecting roots in a country's basic education, and is designed to ensure that each nation will be able to plan its dimensional usage with as little confusion as possible.

Prior to agreement on these five tables, at least 14 different systems of measurement units were in use within the territories of the Organization's Member States.

Member nations which have accepted the final ICAO table of units are: Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland.

Nations which have accepted one of the other four ICAO tables are: Australia, Burma, Bolivia, Brazil, Ceylon, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippine Republic, Siam, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom.

Nations which have notified ICAO that they are unable as yet to arrange for the uniform use, within their airline operations, of any one of the five internationally agreed tables are: Canada, Ethiopia, Iraq, United States.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in April totalled 68,979 as compared with 103,402 in March and 59,265 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. At the end of the month there were 134,500 ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register compared with 185,800 at the end of March and 105,400 at April 31, 1948.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES: Department store sales advanced seven per cent during the week ending May 28 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: Industrial employment in Canada showed the customary seasonal contraction in volume between March 1 and April 1, but at the latter date was at a higher level than for any previous year for which monthly statistics have been compiled, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The aggregate payrolls reported were also substantially above a year earlier, but slightly down from March 1 this year.

MCKEE TROPHY AWARD: The Minister of National Defence, will present the McKee Trans-Canada Trophy to Flying Officer R.B. West, DFC, AFC, of Medford, N.S., during the afternoon of Air Force Day at Rockcliffe, Saturday, June 11, it was announced by Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa. The award of the trophy to F/O West, for his contribution to Canadian aviation during 1948, was announced recently.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: Sales of new motor vehicles in April showed a further advance on the gain recorded in March, rising 46 per cent in number and 56 per cent in value over the corresponding month last year. Sales in March were up 18 per cent in number and 29 per cent in value over March last year. As in March, the gain was due mainly to larger sales of passenger cars.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 26 amounted to 95,630,000 bushels, down 4,149,000 from the preceding week's total, but 39,114,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.