

**CIVIL DEFENCE:** Speaking at the official opening of the Civil Defence Control Centre in Montreal on February 19, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, announced closer integration of civil defence preparations on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border.

"I had occasion recently to inspect an installation such as this in the United States while attending the meetings of the Joint U.S.-Canadian Civil Defence Committee at the State Department in Washington," he said. "At this important meeting we were able to work out plans for the closer integration of civil defence preparations on both sides of the border.

"For obvious reasons, I cannot make public the decisions reached in our talks with U.S. civil defence authorities, but I can report that throughout our discussions we had the most reassuring evidence of the spirit of mutual aid and helpfulness that characterizes the relations between our two countries in this vital field."

Of Canada's civil defence preparations he said:

"Perhaps the best evidence of the determination of Canadians to do something about civil defence is the fact that, in no less than 558 Canadian communities, civil defence organizations are now in existence. More than 100 communities are organized and trained by services. The remainder are in various intermediate stages of organization.

"Across Canada, some 160,000 civil defence workers have been enrolled in local, provincial and federal organizations. Of these, about one in three have been trained. This total, of course, includes a considerable number of civil government employees as well as citizen volunteers."

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**MR. HAMMARSKJÖLD IN OTTAWA:** The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, arrived in Toronto on February 25 to attend a luncheon given in his honour by the Empire Club of Toronto.

On February 26 Mr. Hammarskjöld called upon the Secretary of State for External Affairs in Ottawa and was to hold a press conference later that day. Following lunch at the Legation of Sweden he was to visit Carleton College, and meet members of the Senate and Faculty.

In the afternoon Carleton College was to convene a special convocation to confer upon the Secretary-General an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

In the evening Mr. Hammarskjöld was to call on the Governor General, and later Mr. Pearson was to entertain at dinner in his honour.

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Railways moved 12,709,000 tons of forest products in the first three quarters of last year, 2,604,000 or 17% less than in 1952.

**AUSTRALIA TO BUY SALMON:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced in the House of Commons on February 18 a decision of the Australian Government involving a measure of relaxation in its import restrictions upon canned salmon. He said, in part:

"I wish to inform the House that the Australian Government is undertaking a measure of relaxation in its import restrictions upon canned salmon. This news is important because it signifies the partial reopening of the Australian market to a Canadian export product which has been excluded from there in recent years. Further details on this matter will come from the Australian Government.

"While the total quantities involved may not be large, this renewed opportunity for trade will undoubtedly be welcomed in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada as evidence of progress in returning to more normal conditions of world trade. Canned salmon is one of our major export products. Immediately before the war Canada had a market for canned salmon in Australia which amounted to \$1½ million or \$2 million per year. Since then these exports have been much reduced, until in recent years the quantities have become negligible. The Australian decision will, therefore, permit the Canadian industry to return once more to this traditional market...."

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**INTER-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE:** A conference of provincial Ministers on the regulation and control of highway transport was announced by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, in the House of Commons on February 23. He said:

"In view of the decision of the Privy Council in the case of Winner versus S.M.T. (Eastern) Ltd. et al., it appears that an inter-provincial or international undertaking within the meaning of Section 92, head 10 (a) of the British North America Act is not subject to the provincial law relating to public carriers.

"In our view it would not be in the public interest to have a divided jurisdiction, with the provincial boards controlling the traffic within the provinces, and a federal board controlling the traffic moving between the provinces or between a province and the United States and for this amongst other reasons, we are reluctant to enter this field and thereby bring about divided jurisdiction.

"In view of this situation I propose to call a conference of provincial Ministers having jurisdiction over highways to discuss the problems arising herein and to endeavour to find a common ground on the best way to regulate and control highway transport, whether intraprovincial, interprovincial or international...."

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Rigid insulating board production rose 15% last year to 278,696,000 sq. ft., and domestic shipments climbed 18% to 277,302,000.