

Later he said:-

"While I make the point that there are no real scientific secrets yet there are most important technological advantages and engineering know-how which are the exclusive prerequisite of those who have laboured and carried the burden of development. I would say that in the atomic energy project, like any other major undertaking, there is a phase where prodigious effort is required for little in the way of return; then there comes a point at which the returns increase very rapidly for a little additional effort and everything goes forward on a rising curve.

"The United States is to-day on this rising curve with atomic energy. Its leadership is now in an unquestioned position and if those concerned maintain their research and development on the scale authorized by their Congress it seems that their ascendancy will remain for a decade or so at least. Meanwhile no other country on earth has as yet passed out of the difficult first phase to which I have referred and it will be a very arduous and long process to overtake the United States lead which is presented by capital equipment in atomic plants and research establishments estimated to have cost some billions of dollars mostly in payment in one way or another for skills which had to be taken out of the national economy. No other country is as yet endowed with these skills on such a lavish basis nor is it likely that any other country could make this diversion without destroying or at the least seriously crippling their national economy.

"In the light of what I have said as to the great magnitude and long continued efforts required for the preparation of atomic war, it seems reasonably probable that we need not fear its outbreak on any significant scale for a while yet. There is thus no occasion for hysteria but on the other hand it would be folly to waste the time which remains to us through a failure to give proper consideration to the defensive measures which are open and in particular to advance by every means within our power the setting up of an international agreement which will effectively protect the peoples of the world. . . ."

MR. DUNTON ON COMMITTEE: A meeting of an Advisory Committee of Information Experts has been called for May 25 of this year by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Recommendation that such a Committee meet periodically was made by the General Assembly at its first meeting in London.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary-General of the needs and desires of the general public regarding Public Information about the United Nations. At the forthcoming meeting at Lake Success, the Committee will also review the operations of the Department of Public Information to date.

Following the instructions of the General Assembly, the Committee is composed of experts

appointed on the basis of broad geographical representation and representative of the various media. Many are private citizens who are leaders in the various fields, others are officials of Government Information Services, but all have been asked to serve as individuals, not as representatives of member countries.

Invitations to serve on the Committee have been issued by the Assistant Secretary General for Public Information, Benjamin Cohen, to fourteen experts and acceptance have been received so far from the following: Joseph Barnes (USA), Vernon Bartlett (UK), F.M. Demello (India), David Dunton (Canada), Jiri Hronek (Czechoslovakia), Georges Huisman (France), Charles Malik (Lebanon), Finn Moe (Norway), T.C. T'Ang (China).

The Session will run through June 3 inclusive.

MR. MARSHALL CHAIRMAN: Adoption of an international standard industrial classification of all economic activities; the starting of a programme of international statistical education and training, and the establishment of a work programme for the immediate and more distant future in the international field, were the main achievements of the Third Session of the Statistical Commission, which was held at Lake Success from April 26 through May 6, 1948.

The 12-member Commission, comprising representatives of Canada, China, France, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United States and United Kingdom, re-elected its 1947 officers, namely: Chairman, Mr. H. Marshall (Canada); Vice-Chairman, Mr. P.C. Mahalonobis (India); Rapporteur, Mr. S.A. Rice (USA).

COL. SHARMAN ELECTED: The Commission on Narcotic Drugs on May 12 unanimously elected Colonel C.H.L. Sharman, the Canadian representative on the Commission, to be a member of the supervisory body.

Under the 1931 Convention for limiting the manufacture and regulating the distribution of narcotic drugs, amended by the protocol on narcotic drugs of 1946, a supervisory body examines the estimates of Governments for their requirements of narcotics. Two members of the supervisory body, which consists of four members, are appointed by the World Health Organization, one by the Commission on narcotic drugs and one by the Permanent Central Opium Board.

Consideration of article 8, which contains the so called "colonial clause" was postponed.

(The "colonial clause" contains the provision that "any state may, at the time of signature of the deposition of its instrument of acceptance, declare that its acceptance of the protocol does not apply to all or any of the territories or groups of territories for the foreign relations of which such state is responsible.")

FOREIGN TRADE: Foreign trade of Canada in March was valued at \$427,956,000, showing a minor increase over the March 1947 figure of \$420,777,000, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first three months of this year the trade aggregated \$1,265,600,000 as compared with \$1,164,000,000 in the similar period of 1947, a rise of almost nine per cent.

Merchandise was imported in March to the value of \$197,100,000, showing a decline of \$11,800,000 from the March 1947 total of \$208,900,000. This was the first decline from the preceding year in the monthly import totals since December 1945 -- a period of 27 months. During the first three months of this year, imports were valued at \$585,300,000 as compared with \$559,800,000 in the like period of 1947.

Value of merchandise exported in March was \$228,400,000, approximately nine per cent above the March 1947 total of \$209,000,000. With higher figures registered for each month of the year, the aggregate for the first quarter advanced to \$672,000,000 from \$597,100,000 in the like period of 1947, or by 12.5 per cent.

The balance of trade with all countries in March was in favour of Canada to the extent of \$33,900,000 as against \$28,100,000 in the preceding month and \$3,000,000 in the corresponding month last year; in the first quarter the favourable balance was \$95,000,000 compared with \$44,400,000 in the similar period of 1947.

The month's debit balance with the United States was \$24,200,000, the lowest monthly figure since December, 1945. In February the debit was \$40,500,000, and in March last year, \$80,200,000. In the first quarter the unfavourable balance was \$107,900,000 compared with \$203,200,000 in the first three months of 1947.

The favourable balance of trade with the United Kingdom in March was \$37,700,000 as against \$33,900,000 in February and \$33,900,000 in March last year, and in the first quarter of this year, \$115,000,000 compared with \$104,700,000 in the same period of 1947.

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS: Canada's merchandise imports in March were valued at \$197,100,000, showing a decrease of 5.7 per cent from the March 1947 total of \$208,900,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decline in the month was the first to be recorded from the preceding year since December 1945. During the first three months of this year, imports for consumption totalled \$585,300,000 as compared with \$559,800,000 in the same period of 1947, an increase of 4.5 per cent.

Imports from the United States in March were valued at \$138,299,000 as compared with

\$165,116,000 in the corresponding month last year, a drop of \$26,817,000 or almost 16 per cent. The decrease in February was \$1,582,000, or from \$138,429,000 in February 1947 to \$136,847,000. During the first three months of this year, imports from the United States amounted to \$425,122,000 as against \$439,993,000.

Imports from the United Kingdom were higher in March, amounting to \$21,601,000 as compared with \$13,826,000 in the same month last year, while the aggregate for the first quarter was \$61,062,000 as compared with \$38,598,000 in the similar period of 1947.

SEEDING CONDITIONS: Seeding conditions have been extremely variable throughout Canada to date this season. Spring is late in the Maritimes but work on the land is well under way in New Brunswick and in south-western areas of Nova Scotia. Conditions in Quebec and Ontario are far in advance of last year. The weather has generally favoured seeding operations. Fall-sown crops have wintered well and over-all prospects are promising. Moisture supplies in the Prairie Provinces are excellent although flooding has created serious problems in local areas. Seeding is under way in some districts of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan and at scattered points in Manitoba. Wet weather and low temperatures have delayed drying however, and seeding cannot become general before the 15th or 20th of this month. In British Columbia a very late spring has delayed farming operations but warmer weather will permit rapid progress. The fruit crop prospects are promising.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:

	May 6, 1948	April 29, 1948	April 8, 1948
			(1935-39=100)

INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX

(100 Common Stocks)	111.8	111.7	107.6
76 Industrials...	106.4	106.0	102.2
16 Utilities	119.9	121.2	114.2
8 Banks.....	128.5	128.0	128.9

MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX

(30 Stocks).....	84.3	84.2	80.4
25 Golds.....	67.3	66.9	65.9
5 Base Metals....	118.0	118.4	108.6

PROJECTS BRANCH HEAD: Appointment of G.D. Mallory as Acting Co-ordinator of the Public Projects Branch was announced by Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce. Succeeding H.W. Lea, who has asked to be relieved of his position to return to private practice in