

(C.W.B. April 9, 1948)

interest to have the Board of Transport Commissioners make a thorough investigation of the rate structure of railways and railway companies which are under the jurisdiction of Parliament, with a view to the establishment of a fair and reasonable rate structure which will, under substantially similar circumstances and conditions, be equal in its application to all persons and localities so as to permit the freest possible exchange of commodities between the various provinces and territories of Canada and the extension of Canadian trade, both foreign and domestic, having due regard to the needs of agriculture and other basic industries. This investigation will be subject, of course, to the statutory provisions affecting freight rates known as the Maritime Freight Rates Act and the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement."

DBS SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:

	April 1	March 25	March 4
	(1935-39=100)		
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX			
(100 common Stocks)	105.5	103.4	101.4
76 Industrials....	100.2	98.0	95.6
16 Utilities.....	112.4	109.2	107.8
8 Banks.....	125.1	126.0	127.7
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX			
(30 Stocks).....	81.0	80.7	84.5
25 Golds.....	67.3	68.2	74.3
5 Base Metals....	107.4	104.6	103.1

PARIS CONFERENCE: The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced Wednesday that approval has been given to Canadian representation at the Sixth Decennial Conference for the Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death, to be held in Paris from April 25 to April 30, 1948. The Canadian delegation will be as follows:

SENIOR DELEGATE:

Dr. F.S. Burke, to represent the Department of National Health and Welfare and other medical services in the Government of Canada.

DELEGATES:

Dr. J.A. Melanson, of the Department of Health, Province of New Brunswick, to represent the provinces.

Dr. John Wyllie, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Queen's University, to represent the national private schools and the schools of public health.

Mr. J.T. Marshall, to represent the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

TECHNICAL ADVISER:

Miss Winnifred O'Brien, R.N., Medical Classification Section, Division of Social Welfare Statistics, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

This Sixth Decennial Conference which will be attended by representatives of most of the nations of the world will be the culmination of the statistical study of diseases and causes of death which has now been in progress for more than a century. The accurate study of the incidence of diseases and of the causes of death is dependent upon the use of a uniform classification. Attempts to establish a uniform classification have been made at various International Statistical Congresses since 1853; and the most recent revision of the International Lists of Causes of Death dates from 1938 when for the fifth time revision was made by international agreement.

As a consequence of agreements which will probably be reached in Paris toward the end of this month, there will undoubtedly result a great improvement in the international comparability of illness statistics, and a more refined comparison of mortality with morbidity will be possible. Among the subjects to be discussed at the forthcoming Revision Conference will be the following:

- Medical certification;
- Joint cause problem;
- Structure of the detailed list of International List of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death;
- Structure and uses of intermediate and abridged lists;
- Definitions of stillbirth, abortion and immaturity;
- Size of age groups by which data should be tabulated;
- Methods of standardizing rates;
- Residence allocation;
- Technical machinery for future revision of the International Classification.

It is thought that as a result of the forthcoming Conference in Paris, no further international conferences on a large scale will be necessary. Revision of the lists, as modification becomes necessary, will likely be henceforth one of the continuing responsibilities of the World Health Organization of the United Nations which is to meet in assembly for the first time in Geneva in June of this year.

EMPLOYMENT LEVEL: There was a pronounced contraction in industrial employment throughout Canada at the beginning of February. The 18,560 leading employers in the eight major industrial divisions furnishing returns to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics had a working force of 1,955,825 men and women as compared with 2,002,819 at the first of January, a decline of almost 47,000 persons, or 2.3 per cent. The index number of employment, based on the 1926 average as 100, declined from 193.7 at the first of January, 1948, to 189.2 at February 1, as compared with 180.7 at the same date a year ago.

The weekly salaries and wages distributed at February 1 by these firms totalled \$75,-

627,000, which was four per cent greater than their disbursements of \$72,655,000 in the holiday week of January 1. Average weekly earnings, in the eight leading industries was \$38.67 as compared with \$36.28 a month earlier and \$35.03 at February 1 last year.

The decrease in the number employed was due in part to seasonal causes, in part to the industrial dispute in the western coal fields, in part to shortage of gas brought about by unusually inclement weather, and in part to other factors. Manufacturing as a whole showed decidedly less-than-normal recovery from the year-end losses in employment reflected in the statistics of the preceding monthly survey; within this division, the iron and steel group was particularly affected by the fuel situation. In many cases, however, the lay-offs in that industry were not of long duration.

Seasonal curtailment on a large scale was indicated in employment in trade. Logging, construction and transportation also released substantial numbers of workers, although the percentage losses were much smaller than those in retail trade. The declines in the last two industries were seasonal, while that in logging was at variance with the trend indicated at February 1 in 17 of the 27 preceding years for which data are available.

The strike of western coal miners had an especially serious effect upon the situation in the three most westerly provinces, and decidedly lowered the level of employment in mining as a whole throughout the Dominion. Reductions on a relatively small scale were indicated in hotels and restaurants, while communications, laundries and dry-cleaning establishments showed moderate improvement.

RADIO SALES LOWER: Sales of radio receiving sets by Canadian producers were sharply lower in January, totalling 39,046 units compared with 66,041 in the corresponding month last year, a decline of 41 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Imports and exports of radios also were reduced, the former falling from 3,749 units in January last year to 288, and the latter from 8,338 units to 1,394.

105 ARE HONORED: Wartime decorations and awards for gallantry in action, and for outstanding services in positions of great responsibility, were presented at a Government House investiture in Ottawa Thursday afternoon.

One hundred and five persons, representing Army, Navy and Air Force, and including one Women's Division officer, RCAF, and one Warrant Officer, Army, as well as a number of civilians, received their medals from the hands of His Excellency the Governor-General.

Seven Army officers, all Major Generals;

one Naval officer, and Engineer Rear Admiral; and three RCAF officers, all Air Vice-Marshals, received their CBs (Companion of the Order of the Bath).

Forty-eight officers, 28 Army, 4 Navy and 16 Air Force, received their CBEs (Commander of the Order of the British Empire).

Nineteen Army officers, including one Major-General and one Brigadier, received the DSO (Distinguished Service Order).

One senior Air Force officer received both the CBE and the AFC (Air Force Cross), the latter for exceptional skill as a pilot in situations of great hazard.

The MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) was presented to a Wing Officer of the RCAF, Women's Division, for distinguished services overseas.

A Warrant Officer of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals received the British Empire Medal for outstanding services.

Mr. D.C. Coleman, Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal, received the CMG (Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George).

The British Empire Medal (civil) was presented to fifteen men and women of Ottawa whose award of this decoration was first announced on the civil list in July 1946.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES SESSION: The first session of the Chemical Industries Committee of the International Labour Organization was opened in Paris Wednesday according to an announcement made by Honourable Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour. This session will sit until April 17.

The Committee will consider the problems of the Chemical Industries in the light of recent events and changes, and, the conditions of labour and the organization of Industrial Relations in these industries.

This is the eighth standing Committee set up by the I.L.O. to deal with problems of most of the important world industries. There are six Canadian representatives on the Committee, two representing the Government, two the employers and two the workers. Representing the Government are R.W. Crumb, Industrial Relations Branch, Department of Labour, Toronto; Stanislas Picard, B.Sc. (Chemical Eng.), Unemployment Insurance Commission, Quebec City; representing the employers are J.D. Converse, of Montreal, and R.F. Cummings, of Shawinigan Falls, P.Q.; the workers are represented by Silby Barrett, Canadian Congress of Labour, Toronto, Ont.; and George Pay, Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, Niagara Falls, Ont.

In addition to the Dominion, the following countries have representatives on the Chemical Industries Committee; the United States, Belgium, Brazil, China, France, the United Kingdom, India, Italy, Mexico, Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.