

RAILWAY REVENUES: Continuing the advances of previous months this year, operating revenues and expenses of railways showed further increases in April over the corresponding month last year. The rise in operating expenses was somewhat larger than in revenues, resulting in reduced net operating revenues and operating income.

According to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics, operating revenue for the month totalled \$72,670,000, an increase of 2.6 per cent over April last year, while operating expenses advanced 10 per cent to \$67,661,000. All operating revenue accounts registered improvement over last year. Freight revenues levelled off from \$57,623,000 compared with \$57,528,000. Passenger revenues were up 12.4 per cent to \$6,852,000, due mainly to increased tariffs and longer average journey.

Maintenance expenses required \$29,092,000 during the month, an increase of \$4,032,000 over April 1948, with way and structures up 20 per cent, and maintenance of equipment advancing 13 per cent. Transportation expenses rose five per cent to \$32,541,000, while other accounts were heavier.

Revenue freight carried during the month declined 7.4 per cent in tonnage but only 1.9 per cent in ton mileage. Revenue passengers numbered 2,699,490 compared with 2,821,333, but passenger mileage improved by 4.5 per cent. Total pay-roll reached \$39,376,000 for 172,200 employees as against \$34,286,000 for 172,800 employees one year earlier, a per capita advance of 15 per cent.

CARLOADINGS: Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended July 9 rose to 72,936 cars, up sharply from the low of 62,056 cars in the holiday week of July 2, but were off 3,622 cars or five per cent from the 27th week last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

IRON AND STEEL: Production of pig iron in Canada amounted to 180,700 net tons in April as compared with 202,100 in the preceding month and 170,800 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. During the first four months of this year, 738,700 tons were produced as against 654,600 in the similar period last year.

MAJ. GEN. LETSON HONOURED: Major-General H.F.G. Letson, CB, CBE, MC, ED, secretary to the Governor General of Canada, has been appointed Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the British Columbia Regiment (13th Armd. Regt.), the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on July 15.

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ELECTRIC ENERGY: Continuing the gains of earlier months, output of electric energy by central electric stations in Canada showed an advance of five per cent in May over the corresponding month last year to reach the highest monthly total on record. Total for the first five months of this year increased three per cent over the similar period of 1948. All provinces shared in the month's advance, while in the cumulative period production was higher in all with the exception of Quebec.

According to figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, the month's output amounted to 4,271,027,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 4,072,973,000 in May last year. In the five-month period, 19,444,285,000 kilowatt hours were produced as against 18,805,995,000 in the like 1948 period.

TRANSPORT DEPT. APPOINTMENTS: Promotion of two officials of the Department of Transport to senior administrative positions and re-alignment of the administrative services of the Department, was announced on July 18 by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier.

Wilbert Jamieson Matthews, General Counsel of the Department, has been appointed Director of Administration and Legal Services. This position replaces that of Assistant Deputy Minister and Comptroller made vacant by the untimely death of F.M. MacLennan in May.

Frank Thomas Collins, Secretary of the Department, assumes the newly created positions of Executive Assistant and Departmental Secretary. Mr. Collins also retains the position of Administrative Assistant to the Minister.

TRAINING WITH U.S. NAVY: Thirty-five officers of the Royal Canadian Navy flying as pilots and observers with the 18th Carrier Air Group, are now engaged in three months training and manoeuvres with the United States Navy.

The group, consisting of two squadrons of Firefly anti-submarine aircraft, flew from the R.C.N. Air Station, Dartmouth, N.S., to the U.S. Naval Air Base at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, on July 7.

FRANCE'S 17 AWARDS: Seventeen awards have been conferred by the Government of France upon members of the wartime Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on July 15. The awards are in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the Allies in connection with the liberation of France during the Second World War.

"THE RCAF OVERSEAS": The third and final volume of the official account of the RCAF's operational activities overseas in the Second World War has been completed and will be making its appearance on the bookstalls shortly, it is announced by Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa. Named "The RCAF Overseas: The Sixth Year", the book forms the last part of a trilogy, and covers RCAF overseas operations from September, 1944 to the end of the war. Two companion volumes have been previously published, "The RCAF Overseas: The First Four Years" and "The RCAF Overseas: The Fifth Year".

Published by the Oxford University Press in Toronto, the history will be priced at \$4. All royalties from its sale will go to the RCAF Benevolent Fund. The book has been prepared by the RCAF historical section, in Ottawa, headed by Wing Commander F.H. Hitchins of London, Ont. W/C Hitchins who obtained his Doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania, taught at New York University from 1928 until 1941, when he joined the RCAF as an historian.

The book's contents are noted in an introduction by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, who states: "They are deeds of which Canada can be proud, unsurpassed as they are in the annals of any country in a cause that could not have been better."

The history presents a full account of overseas operations by the RCAF during the last year of the war, including the final phase of the Canadian heavy bomber operations and the important part played by RCAF fighter squadrons on the Continent. As in the two preceding volumes, The Sixth Year is profusely illustrated with official RCAF photographs and mentions countless personnel by name. It also includes photographic reproductions of the badges of most of the RCAF units that served overseas.

A Roll of Honour and a list of orders, decorations, and medals for gallantry awarded to RCAF members supplements those included in the first two volumes and completes the record up to the end of 1946. Also included is a tabulation of RCAF casualties from Sept. 10, 1939 to Dec. 31, 1946.

ARMY ON DISPLAY: Millions of dollars worth of military equipment is being readied for display at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, the Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa, and a number of Fall fairs across Canada, military authorities at Ottawa have announced.

At Ottawa, the band of the Governor General's Foot Guards will perform daily during exhibition week. At both Ottawa and Toronto, hand-picked squads from the Navy, Army and RCAF will stage a demonstration of precision drill during grandstand performances. Unusual and costly equipment used by the three Services will be displayed at both exhibitions.

The Army plans a mobile exhibit of weapons and vehicles for participation in country

fairs in Ontario. The unit will tour a large number of smaller cities and towns with its visit timed to coincide with the dates of the local fall fair.

INVENTORY VALUES: The value of inventories held by manufacturing industries of Canada appears to have fallen slightly for the third consecutive month, the preliminary index number for May standing at 130.6 per cent of the average 1947 value as against 131.2 at the end of April, according to the Bureau of Statistics. At the May level, the index was 2.9 points below the high reached in February.

Of the main industry groupings, inventory values in the consumers' goods industries showed a decline of 1.9 points, bringing the total decrease in this group to 2.6 points from the high in February and March. In the capital goods industries, inventory values rose by half a point during May, but are 25 points below the high reached last November.

Value of stocks in the producers' goods industries rose by almost two points, and are now three points below the January high point. In the construction goods industries, stocks appear to have reached a new high of 170.1, five points above the April level.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on July 7 amounted to 65,263,000 bushels compared with 70,343,000 on June 30, and 46,017,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending July 7 totalled 4,594,400 bushels compared with 2,374,300 in the same week last year, and in the cumulative period, 163,522,000 bushels compared with 122,173,200.

STORE SALES UP: Department store sales rose four per cent during the week ending July 9 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. All regions of the country participated in the rise except Ontario and Alberta. British Columbia showed an advance of 19 per cent, followed by the Maritimes and Manitoba each up seven per cent, Saskatchewan four per cent and Quebec one per cent. Sales in Ontario decreased three per cent, while in Alberta, sales were unchanged.

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL: A tuberculosis control grant of \$63,000 to finance a hospital admission chest x-ray program in smaller hospitals throughout Ontario has just been authorized under the terms of the National Health Plan, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, has announced.