

LOUISBOURG BOOKLET: A new booklet dealing with the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park in Nova Scotia, has just been issued under the authority of the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. MacKinnon. The text, which was prepared by Miss Katharine McLennan, Honorary Curator of the Park Museum, describes the history of Louisbourg, French stronghold on Cape Breton Island.

The story of Louisbourg is that of the early struggles for supremacy of the North American continent. The fort was erected more than two and one-quarter centuries ago, by the French, who named it in honour of Louis XIV. Captured by the British in 1745, it was later returned to the French in exchange for Madras, India. Its fall to British arms in 1758 was a prelude to the capture of Quebec the following year and resulted in the ultimate transfer of Canada to British rule. In 1760 the Fortress was demolished on orders from the British Government. The ruins of Fort Louisbourg are regarded as among the most important historical remains on this continent. In 1941 the area, covering approximately 340 acres, became one of Canada's National Historic Parks. A fine museum housing a wealth of historic material attracts thousands of visitors each year.

HISTORIES FOR HIS MAJESTY: The Canadian Government is sending specially bound copies of the official Army and RCAF histories to His Majesty the King. The volumes are being sent at his Majesty's own request.

The set comprises seven volumes and includes copies of "The Canadian Army, 1939-45"; "The RCAF Overseas", and "The Canadian Army at War".

Title pages bear the inscription: "Presented to His Majesty the King on behalf of His Majesty's Government in Canada".

AVIATION SAFETY STANDARDS: Safety standards for the operation of aircraft on scheduled international services have been adopted by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Dr. Albert Roper, Secretary General, announced at Montreal on December 28. The operating standards are the sixth set of standards adopted for international civil aviation.

The first five sets included personnel licensing, aeronautical maps and charts, rules of the air, dimensional practices in air-ground communications, and meteorological codes. They were adopted by the Council last April and will come into effect at various dates during 1949. The aircraft operation standards will be effective on January 1, 1950, unless they are disapproved by May 15 next by a majority of the Contracting States of the Organization. The standards are drafted with a view to incorporation into the national regulations of ICAO's 51 Contracting States.

ICAO standards and recommended practices

foster air safety in two ways; by producing world-wide uniformity of air navigation services and procedures, so that aircrews of one nationality may be familiar with other countries' methods and regulations, and by ensuring that each nation's aviation practices are maintained at a high stand of quality.

Authority for the establishment of the standards comes from the Convention on International Civil Aviation, concluded at Chicago in 1944. The ICAO Council adoption of a standard gives it status as an annex to this Convention.

A state which finds itself unable to comply with any of the provisions of an approved annex must notify ICAO so that other Contracting States can be warned of the divergency.

REPLY FROM MR. SHERTOK: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on December 27 that a reply had been received to the message sent on December 24, 1948, to Mr. Moshe Shertok, Foreign Secretary of the Provisional Government of Israel.

The text of Mr. Shertok's reply is as follows:

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your cable of 24th December and to convey to Your Excellency on behalf of the Provisional Government of Israel an expression of deep appreciation of the de facto recognition by the Canadian Government and the hope of the early establishment of formal relations between Canada and Israel. The Provisional Government of Israel is anxious for the rapid restoration of peace and the settlement of all outstanding questions either directly or through the good offices of the Conciliation Commission appointed under the General Assembly resolution of December 11, 1948, and regards this active recognition by Canada as an important contribution towards this end."

SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS: Transactions in securities between Canada and other countries in October totalled \$35,500,000, a decrease of 11 per cent from the September figure, but a rise of 19 per cent over October last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Both sales and purchases were lower than in September and the purchase balance fell from \$900,000 to \$500,000.

Transactions with all countries in the first 10 months of 1948 resulted in net purchases of \$18,800,000 as against net purchases of \$12,300,000 in the same period of 1947 and net sales of \$132,400,000 in the first 10 months of 1946. Purchases of Dominion bonds and United States stocks were the most important types of transactions in 1948.

In trade with the United States in October, sales and purchases each decreased from the preceding month by approximately the same amount. Hence there was no appreciable change

in the net outflow of funds, which was \$900,000 in October and \$800,000 in September.

Transactions with the United Kingdom in October produced a sales balance for the first time in seven years. The balance, amounting to \$400,000 was due to net sales of bonds issued by the federal and provincial governments and Canadian corporations. Stock transactions resulted in a small purchase balance which had little effect upon the total trade between Canada and the United Kingdom.

The total volume of trade with other countries was the same as that for September, sales and purchases each totalling \$400,000.

EMPLOYMENT UP: Employment in leading establishments in the main industrial divisions showed continued though slight improvement at November 1. As a result, the index number, on the base 1926=100, rose to a new high figure of 203.5, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. The gain in employment was accompanied by increases in payrolls and average weekly earnings, both of which were also at new peak levels.

The fractional rise in the advance index number of employment at November 1 as compared with the first of October was accompanied by an increase of 0.8 per cent in the index number of weekly salaries and wages. The latest figure of payrolls was the highest in the period for which data are available. The advance figure of average weekly earnings in the eight major industrial groups stood at \$42.12, exceeding the previous maximum of \$41.80 at October 1, and that of \$37.79 indicated at November 1, 1947.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH: Contamination of rural water supplies, the effectiveness of various products used in washing restaurant dishes and studies of neurotropic viruses are among the projects being financed with money from the federal Government grants for public health research, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, has announced.

Largest single grant has been made to extend research now being carried on by Dr. Andrew J. Rhodes, research assistant at the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories, Toronto, who is investigating neurotropic viruses. These are thought to have some relationship to the development of poliomyelitis. Dr. Rhodes, who is also Associate Professor of virus infections at the University of Toronto's School of Hygiene is also being assisted in his research by a grant of \$10,000 per year from the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association. The federal grant will enable his laboratory to work to its full capacity.

"A grant has been made for studies of a serious problem in rural areas -- pollution of water supplies in wells where there is no obvious source of contamination. Radioactive isotopes will likely be used as "tracers" in

this project, and it is hoped to extend the investigation to include pollution of streams," said Mr. Martin.

Radioactive isotopes from the National Research Council will be also used as "tracers" in an effort to find out the effectiveness of various detergents used in dish washing in restaurants. This project is being carried out by the Saskatchewan Department of Public Health. A somewhat similar study is being undertaken under the direction of Dr. P. J. Maloney at the University of Toronto's School of Hygiene, where research is being made into methods employed to test the bacterial contamination of food utensils. The Toronto researchers will also study the effectiveness of various detergents, particularly quaternary ammonium and other cationic compounds.

In Manitoba, Mr. Martin said, the provincial Bureau of Public Health Engineering and the University of Manitoba's Engineering Department are to study rural domestic septic tank operations.

Under the National Health Plan \$100,000 was set aside this year for public health research. Unlike the other grants it is not divided on a provincial basis, but each project is submitted to the Dominion Council of Health which recommends appropriate action of the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROGRESS: The annual review of activities in hydro-electric construction and distribution, as issued for 1948, by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. MacKinnon, outlines briefly the various projects comprising the great program of construction completed in 1948, now underway, or planned.

Hydro-electric construction was very active during 1948, over 400,000 h.p. being added to the generating capacity of the country to bring the total hydraulic installation to nearly 11,000,000 h.p. The increases in capacity, involving 278,700 h.p. in eleven new plants and 161,395 h.p. in extensions to eight existing stations, are well distributed across Canada. Many developments also are in various stages of active construction, while others are planned or are under investigation; it is estimated that over 2,000,000 h.p. will be added to productive capacity during the next few years.

During the year, power consumption continued to grow in practically all sections of the country, the demand for primary power being about ten per cent higher than in 1947. The completion of some of the larger plants now under construction will be necessary before essential reserve capacity becomes available.

CANAL TRAFFIC: Freight traffic was heavier on the Sault Ste. Marie and Welland Ship canals in November but was somewhat lighter on the St. Lawrence system.