

"CRESCENT" PAYS TRIBUTE: Tribute was paid by H.M.C.S. "Crescent" in Hong Kong on April 8 to the 281 officers and other ranks of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada who lost their lives in the Japanese attack on the Crown colony in December, 1941.

Wreaths were laid by the commanding officer of the Canadian destroyer, Lieut.-Cdr. David W. Groos, D.S.C., R.C.N., of Victoria, and naval guards were mounted at Saiwan and Stanley cemeteries, where the Canadian dead are buried.

In a wireless message from Hong Kong, H.M.C.S. "Crescent" advised the two Canadian army units of the intention "to lay wreaths and mount guards at Saiwan and Stanley cemeteries, where so many of your gallant regiments are at rest."

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES: Three grants totaling more than \$24,000 have been made to the University of Western Ontario, London; McGill University, Montreal; and Dalhousie University, Halifax, to enable them to provide new public health services in their areas, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, announced on April 8.

At the University of Western Ontario the grant will be used to finance a "workshop" in clinical psychology; at McGill to develop a children's health program in Lachine, and at Dalhousie to purchase x-ray equipment for the medical school's pre-natal clinic and teaching hospital in obstetrics.

\$13,500,000 BRIDGE: Appointment of P.L. Pratley, D. Eng., M. Inst. C.E., consulting engineer of Montreal, to take charge of all engineering work and to supervise construction in connection with the \$13,500,000 low-level bridge across the Strait of Canso between Cape Breton Island and the mainland of Nova Scotia, was announced on April 8 by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier.

Announcement was made by the Minister in the House of Commons on March 14 that Government would proceed without delay to implement the recommendations of a three-man Board of Engineers for the construction of a 3,000 foot low-level railway and highway bridge across the Strait of Canso between Cape Porcupine and Balacho Point. The bridge will have a vertical lift span to provide for the passage of ships. The Minister then announced that the Province of Nova Scotia would contribute a portion of the cost of the project.

FEWER CATTLE, SHEEP, HORSES: There were fewer cattle, sheep and horses on farms in Canada on December 1, 1948 than on the corresponding date of 1947, according to estimates released by the Bureau of Statistics.

The estimate of the number of cattle on farms stands at 8,251,000, a decline of 7.7

per cent from the December 1, 1947 figure of 8,944,000. Reductions occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. The total of milk cows declined only 3.5 per cent. Favourable prices resulted in greater liquidation of other classes of cattle and calves than of milk cows.

Sheep and lambs numbered 1,322,000, down 16.7 per cent from 1,587,000 at December 1, 1947. Decreases were most marked in Quebec and Manitoba. Lambs were marketed earlier than in 1947 and a smaller proportion of the spring lamb crop was carried over. Sheep over one year old declined 13 per cent in number.

Estimated number of horses on farms was 1,842,000, down seven per cent from the same date in 1947. Decreases were common to all provinces but were greater in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario than in other provinces.

LIVING COSTS AGAIN DOWN: Canada's official cost-of-living index receded three-tenths of a point between February 1 and March 1. This decline, the second in succession, brought the index four-tenths of a point below the index peak of 159.6. It was, however, 8.4 points above March 1 last year. The latest index stood at 159.2 as compared with 159.5 at February 1, 159.6 at January 1, and 150.8 a year ago. It was 57.9 per cent above the August, 1939 level.

NEWFOUNDLAND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: It was announced on April 9 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, that as of April 1, 1949, all residents of Newfoundland employed in insurable employment as laid down by The Unemployment Insurance Act are covered by the provisions of the Act on the same basis as other Canadians.

Without special provision having been made, however, a Newfoundland resident would have had to work in insurable employment for at least one hundred and eighty days after April 1 before he or she qualified for unemployment insurance benefit payments.

To provide immediate protection to those employed in insurable employment and who may become unemployed, and immediate assistance to those who have been employed in employment which would have been insurable employment (if it had been employment in Canada) and are unemployed on April 1, 1949, the Terms of Union authorize the payment of "Unemployment Assistance" for a maximum period of six months on the same scale as Unemployment Insurance benefit, the Minister explained. This assistance will be available for this six months' period up to April 1, 1951.

Payment of this Assistance depends on these job applicants being unemployed, physically able to work, available for immediate employment, unable to obtain suitable employment and being at least 16 years of age.

Mr. Mitchell explained that under the Terms of Union, Newfoundland veterans become entitled to the same rights under The Unemployment Insurance Act as veterans elsewhere in Canada. The Act provides a veteran with combined contributions, at the expense of the Government, for his whole period of active service since the inception of The Unemployment Insurance Act, when he completes 15 weeks in insurable employment in any 12-month period following discharge, provided this is done not later than September 30, 1952.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S WORKERS: Newfoundland had a gainfully occupied population 14 years of age and over, totalling 112,508 at October 1, 1945, date of the last Newfoundland census, according to a bulletin -- the first dealing with Newfoundland since it became Canada's tenth province -- released by the Bureau of Statistics. The 1945 total compares with 88,710 in 1935, making an increase of nearly 27 per cent in the number gainfully occupied in the 10-year period.

The bulletin is based on a final count of the 1945 census of Newfoundland returns, which were forwarded at the request of Newfoundland to the Bureau for tabulation. It gives detailed figures on the gainfully occupied according to both occupation and industry, by industrial status and sex, for census districts as well as all Newfoundland.

There were 96,000 males, 14 years of age and over, reported as gainfully occupied at October 1, 1945, as compared with 77,730 in 1935, representing an increase of 23.5 per cent over the 10 years. The number of gainfully occupied females of the same age classification was 16,508 in 1945, showing an increase of 50.3 per cent as compared with 10,980 in 1935.

EMPLOYER STATISTICS

Of the gainfully occupied males, 38,063 or 39.6 per cent of the 1945 total were engaged in an employer or own account capacity. This includes persons who owned or operated a farm, mine, fishing gear, or other business such as a store, repair shop, restaurant, etc., or who were engaged in a trade or profession such as carpenter, plumber, doctor, dentist, etc., with or without paid assistance. The majority of gainfully occupied males, numbering 56,071 or 58.4 per cent, however, were wage-earners, i.e., employed by others on a wage, salary, commission, or piece-rate form of payment. On the other hand, 14,939 or 90.5 per cent of the gainfully occupied females were reported as wage-earners at the 1945 census. Only 1,866 males who assisted in the operation of a farm, store, etc., received no stipulated money payment for their services.

Fourteen occupation classes, showing 1,000 or more gainfully occupied males, accounted for 70.6 per cent of the gainfully occupied

males in Newfoundland at October 1, 1945. These, with the 1935 census figures where available and considered comparable shown in brackets, were: fishermen, 30,951 (35,018); labourers (not agricultural, fishing, logging, or mining), 8,592 (8,431); lumbermen, 6,500 (4,471); carpenters, 4,479 (2,071); farmers and stock raisers, 2,787 (4,226); miners, 1,337 (1,135); owners, managers and dealers in retail and wholesale trade, 2,172; office clerks, 1,955; truck drivers, 1,744; mechanics (including radio repairmen), 1,511; longshoremen and stevedores, 1,503; farm labourers, 1,384; sales clerks, 1,216; and seamen, sailors and deckhands, 1,161. Over two-thirds of the gainfully occupied females at the census date, October 1, 1945, were found in the following seven occupation classes: household workers, 4,408; sales clerks, 2,037; school teachers, 1,752; stenographers and typists, 1,027; office clerks, 801; housekeepers and matrons, 710 and waitresses, 549.

Primary industries in Newfoundland absorbed 46,483 or 48.4 per cent of the gainfully occupied males at the 1945 census date. Fishing was, of course, the chief primary industry and accounted for 31,527 or almost one-third of the total gainfully occupied males. Another 11,347 males were employed in services, chiefly the armed forces; 9,293 in manufacturing, chiefly pulp and paper mills; 8,065 in transportation and communication, mainly in water transportation; and 5,278 in trade and finance.

WORLD FARM CONFERENCE: For the first time in its history, Canada will play host this year to a world farmers' conference.

Some thirty nations, including the U.S. and Britain, will send delegates to the third annual conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, which opens in Guelph, Ontario, May 31 for ten days, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture reports.

Host organization for the conference will be the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, whose President, H.H. Hannam, is third vice-president of the international organization.

The conference is to be held in Memorial Hall, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and through the co-operation of the Ontario Government, and President Reek and faculty at the College, the entire facilities of the college buildings are being placed at the disposal of the conference for the ten days.

Sir James Turner, President of the international organization, and President of the British Farmers' Union, will preside at the conference and Canada's Minister of Agriculture, Rt. Honourable Jas. G. Gardiner, will deliver the opening address.

There will be plenary sessions for two days May 31 and June 1, following which the conference will break up into committees on the various phases of world agricultural and food problems. From these committees reports will