

cent, while average journey was unchanged at 117 miles. Loaded freight car miles decreased slightly from August 1947, but empty mileage receded 5.2 per cent -- a saving of 3,820,000 empty car miles. Total payroll distributed during the month climbed to \$43,443,000, up 24.9 per cent over August last year. Employees increased in number from 177,270 to 185,182.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: Canada's official cost-of-living index continued to move upward during September, but the point increase was only half that of the preceding month.

The Bureau of Statistics reports that the index advanced to 159.6 at October 1 from 158.9 on September 1, an increase of 0.7 points as compared with 1.4 points between September 1 and August 1, when the index stood at 157.5. The latest figure compares with 142.2 on October 1 last year. From August 1939 to October this year the increase was 58.3 per cent.

Four of the six group indexes recorded increases during September. The foods index rose from 203.9 to 205.4 at October 1, due mainly to higher prices for eggs, meats and citrus fruits, the only appreciable declines being for vegetables. A few advances for coal and coke caused the fuel series to move from 128.5 to 128.8.

The clothing index rose from 179.9 to 181.0, and home furnishings and services from 164.2 to 165.1. Many price averages for items in these groups recorded small advances, tapering off earlier increases in new autumn lines of merchandise.

The remaining two group indexes were unchanged, the rent index remaining at 121.0 and miscellaneous items at 124.4.

REHABILITATION OF VETERANS: On the eve of Remembrance Day, when all Canada will honour the memory of the dead of two world wars, Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, on November 8, paid tribute to the thousands who, through the ultimate sacrifice of their comrades, had been spared to return to Canada and pick up again the threads of civilian life.

"The manner in which Canadian veterans of World War II have proceeded through their own initiative to re-establish themselves in three short years among the first citizens of Canada, as producers, homemakers, and community leaders, is a credit to their generation", Mr. Mitchell said.

The Minister stated that while generous assistance had been given to the returned man by a grateful nation, it was significant to note that the majority of veterans had asked for minimum assistance and had proceeded to carve out their careers with enthusiasm, energy and courage.

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"Their war service years subtracted from their normal period of civilian training and experience, rather than being a handicap, seems to have been to many veterans a great stimulant in their drive to successful civilian careers", the Minister said.

EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

Mr. Mitchell made these observations in issuing an analysis of the veterans employment picture. A total of 108,900 jobs were found for veterans by the National Employment Service during the first nine months of 1948.

Examination of the records of the Veterans Placements Section of the National Employment Service reveals that a considerable reduction of the percentage of unplaced veterans to all registered as unplaced had taken place during the past year. In September, 1947, 35 per cent of all males registered as unplaced were veterans, whereas the figures for the same time this year showed that only 26 per cent of the total were veterans. At the end of September, 15,449 veterans were registered as unplaced as compared with 21,548 at the same time in 1947.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out that many of the veterans registered as unplaced were not unemployed, or were not unemployed for more than a few days, but were changing their jobs in an effort to better themselves. Many veterans on discharge could not find the type of work they planned to do or jobs suitable to their experience and capabilities, but rather than drift unemployed they had taken what they considered temporary employment. For some time to come, these veterans would continue to appear on the open employment market, seeking jobs which would offer them the opportunity to climb to the occupational level they were capable of reaching.

Included in the total veterans placement figure were 14,689 jobs for older veterans--those who served in World War I, or in both wars. Placement of so many veterans in the higher age brackets was particularly encouraging in view of the difficulties encountered in the post-war years in placing older workers, due to widespread preference of employers for the younger worker, the Minister pointed out.

A decrease in the percentage of older veterans to all unplaced males indicated that some headway had been made in solving the problem through the efforts of the National Employment Service in co-operation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Mitchell stated. Unplaced older veterans constituted 6.8 per cent of the total unplaced males in Canada at September 30, 1948, as compared with 8.7 per cent at September 30, 1947.

Included in the total placement figures for all veterans in the first nine months of this year were 4,767 jobs for physically handi-

capped ex-Servicemen and 77 for ex-Servicewomen. These placements were made by the Special Placements Division of the National Employment Service.

PRESENTS CREDENTIALS: The Department of External Affairs announced that Mr. Mario di Stefano, on November 8, presented to His Excellency the Governor General, at Government House, his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy in Canada.

Mr. Claxton, Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, was present. Mr. Mario Majoli, First Secretary of the Italian Embassy, and Mr. Pietro Migone, Commercial Attaché, accompanied the Ambassador. Mr. Measures, Chief of Protocol, Department of External Affairs, presented Mr. di Stefano to His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. di Stefano has held the post of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Italian Embassy in Washington since March 12, 1947. Mr. di Stefano was born in Palermo in 1900. He entered the Italian diplomatic service in 1923, served in Athens, Bucharest, Ankara, Moscow and Warsaw and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

HONORARY COLONEL COMMANDANT: Major-General R.M. Luton, CBE, MC (retired), of Halifax, has accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel Commandant of The Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, according to an announcement made November 6 at the annual meeting of the Defence Medical Association. Since March, 1947, he has been Honorary Colonel of the RCAMC, an appointment he now relinquishes.

General Luton has had a long and distinguished association with the Canadian Army and the RCAMC. He was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps in 1914 and entered the permanent force in 1920 with the rank of captain, after service throughout World War I. During the Second World War he was senior medical officer at Canadian Military Headquarters in London, England, and finally Director of Medical Services overseas.

In 1946 he attended the atom bomb demonstration at Bikini as one of the Canadian representatives. The following year he retired on pension.

He was awarded the United States Legion of Merit, Degree of Commander, in 1947.

APPLE, PEAR CROPS DOWN: October estimate of the Canadian apple crop is placed at 14,163,000 bushels, a reduction of 562,000 bushels from the September figure. The decrease was due to downward revisions in Nova Scotia and Ontario. The current estimate makes the crop nine per cent smaller than the 1947 harvest.

A sharp decline in the estimate of pear production in Ontario occurred during the last

month to bring the Canadian crop to 716,000 bushels -- 26 per cent below the 1947 level of 966,000 bushels. The grape harvest in Ontario was also disappointing. A decline of 18 per cent in that province since last month brings the Canadian total to 60,465,000 pounds compared with 73,803,000 last year.

ELECT. ICAO OFFICERS: Election by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization of three vice-presidents, and of chairmen and members of ICAO committees, was announced November 8 by Dr. Edward Warner, President of the Council. Vice-presidents elected for a one-year term are:

First Vice-President	Mr. Henri Bouché (France)
Second Vice-President	Mr. D. Chakraverti (India)
Third Vice-President	Dr. E.M. Loeza (Mexico)

Mr. Stuart Graham, of Canada, was elected Chairman of the Air Navigation Committee, Sir Frederick Tymms, of the United Kingdom, Chairman of the Committee on Joint Support of Air Navigation Facilities and Dr. Paul T. David, of the United States, Chairman of the Air Transport Committee.

Members of the Air Transport Committee are:

Captain A.A. Irungaray	(Argentina)
Dr. K.N.E. Bradfield	(Australia)
Lt. Colonel Jean Verhaegen	(Belgium)
Brigadier C.S. Booth	(Canada)
Mr. Y.C. Wu	(China)
Mr. Henri Bouché	(France)
Ali Fuad Bey	(Iraq)
Dr. E.M. Loeza	(Mexico)
Dr. F.H. Copes van Hasselt	(Netherlands)
Mr. G. Hulström	(Sweden)
Sir Frederick Tymms	(United Kingdom)
Dr. Paul T. David	(United States)

Members of the Joint Support Committee are:

Captain A.A. Irungaray	(Argentina)
Dr. K.N.E. Bradfield	(Australia)
Brigadier C.S. Booth	(Canada)
Mr. J.M. Amirault	(France)
Mr. D. Chakraverti	(India)
Dr. F.H. Copes van Hasselt	(Netherlands)
Colonel H. Delgado	(Portugal)
Sir Frederick Tymms	(United Kingdom)
Rear Admiral Paul A. Smith	(United States)

BAY OF FUNDY POWER: The Department of External Affairs announced November 9 that the Governments of the United States and Canada had agreed to refer certain matters in connection with the Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project to the International Joint Commission, United States - Canada.

The Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project, as it was originally proposed in the 1920's, would involve damming Passamaquoddy Bay, on the Maine-New Brunswick border, and Cobscook Bay, which lies wholly within the State of