

**NATIONAL FLAG:** The Minister of Transport, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, speaking at Moose Creek, Ont., on January 27, aligned himself with those who favoured the adoption of a distinctly national flag for Canada. The Minister said that "it is now felt by many Canadians that the time has come for Canada to assert further the fully autonomous status of our country within the British Commonwealth of Nations by the adoption of a distinctly national flag."

Mr. Chevrier pointed out that a private member's resolution for the adoption of a national Canadian flag was on the Order Papers of the House of Commons but he assured his audience that no change would be made until after the most careful consideration.

"For myself," he added, "I am in full agreement with the Prime Minister who has indicated that no decision would be made until there is evidence that the changes will be acceptable to a majority of Canadians."

In making known his personal views on the need for a Canadian flag, Mr. Chevrier drew attention to the important steps in Canada's constitutional history. "This position of sovereign nation was achieved within a short period of some twenty years, a fact in which we can take pride and which stands to the enduring credit of the statesmen who have made it possible."

However, "if Canada occupies today a place in the assembly of Nations which is out of proportion with our population of fifteen million people," said Mr. Chevrier, "it is mainly due to our economic strength." He said that the industrial and commercial development of Canada in the last twelve years had "been unequalled by any nation in the world".

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**WHEAT SUPPLIES:** Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on January 13 this year totalled 379,644,000 bushels, a shade above the 379,543,000 bushels in store a week earlier, but sharply above last year's corresponding total of 258,561,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Prairie farmers marketed 5,740,000 bushels of wheat during the week, larger than the preceding week's 4,991,000 bushels but smaller than last year's 7,168,000 bushels. Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week totalled 3,194,000 bushels as compared with 2,489,000 the week before and 3,501,000 at the same time last year.

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Birth rate was 27.9 per thousand Canadians in 1952, second only to the record 28.8 rate of 1947.

**PARACHUTE COMPUTER:** A new and improved method of determining the exact moment to drop paratroopers and supplies being parachuted from the air, and which was developed by two RCAF officers, has been adopted by the United States Air Force.

The new system, in use by the RCAF for some time, was devised by Flight Lieutenant J.H. Riva of Canmore, Alta., in conjunction with Flight Lieutenant J.W. Michaud of Montreal.

The two officers have produced what is known as the Canadian (Riva) method of dropping paratroopers and para-borne supplies, and have designed a computer for making the correct calculations. This computer enables the navigator of an aircraft to determine exactly when to ring the jump bell, the signal for the paratroops to leave the aircraft. Formerly, the dropping area was marked by Army personnel from a ground position, or from an advance aircraft. Succeeding aircraft then released their loads when over this ground marker.

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**46,300 BANK EMPLOYEES:** The ten commercial banks in Canada employ 46,300 workers in nearly 4,000 branches from coast to coast, it was revealed Jan. 28 by the Minister of Labour in reviewing the results of the annual survey of working conditions conducted by the Economics and Research Branch of his Department, which, in 1953, included the chartered banks for the first time.

The survey showed that almost three-quarters, or 73 per cent, of the bank employees were in branches operating on a five-day week as of the survey date in 1953.

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A survey of Canada's 3,641,000 households last September showed that 91% had electricity, 77% had running water, 51% had central heating, 96% had radios, 82% had powered washing machines, 67% had telephones, 66% had mechanical refrigerators, 66% had sewing machines, 58% had electric or gas ranges, 48% had electric vacuum cleaners and 52% had cars.

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Crude petroleum led all minerals in 1953 with a production value of \$198,000,000, exceeding gold, which had held first place for nearly a quarter of a century, by \$58,000,000.

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By 1952, 82% of public hospitals had fluoroscopic facilities, 88% had radiography facilities, and 47% took routine chest x-rays of all patients admitted.