

**NATIONAL SPORTS CONFERENCE:** Invitations have just been issued to more than 40 national sports organizations, both amateur and professional, to attend a second conference of sports-governing bodies in Ottawa on January 6 and 7.

This was announced on December 2 by J.H. Ross of Calgary, recently named by the National Council on Physical Fitness to convene such a meeting, and by Dr. Doris W. Plewes, of Ottawa, the conference secretary.

The first conference held in Ottawa last January to consider ways of promoting greater participation in sports in Canada was attended by nearly 70 representatives and observers.

Several committees established at the first meeting are scheduled to bring in reports on such matters as the participation of school students in outside sports, co-ordination and simplification of the amateur code; establishment of a permanent, non-governmental sports council; and requests to the Cabinet for grants for sports facilities.

**NEW PEAK IN AUTO SALES:** A new monthly post-war peak was reached in the sales of new motor vehicles in October, while the financing of sales of new and used vehicles was maintained at a high level. Cumulative totals for the first 10 months of this year show marked advances in both sales and financing.

In the month, 29,577 new motor vehicles were sold for a total of \$59,762,631 as compared with 21,110 units retailed for \$41,740,931 in October, 1948. New and used vehicles financed in October totalled 22,057 units for a total of \$20,384,390 as against 14,012 units financed for \$12,988,618.

In the 10 months ending October, 235,232 new vehicles were sold for a total of \$487,392,443 as compared with 177,491 for \$352,089,771 in the like period of 1948. New and used motor vehicles financed in the 10 months totalled 194,591 involving \$182,271,842 as compared with 129,988 vehicles financed for \$120,337,918 in the same period of 1948.

**MAURICE BELANGER RESIGNS:** Resignation of Maurice Bélanger from the Trade Commissioner Service has been announced by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe. Formerly Canadian Commercial Secretary in Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Bélanger will take up a position with the Brazilian Traction Light and Power Co. in the same city.

**COMMERCIAL FAILURES UP:** Commercial failures rose sharply in the first nine months of 1949 to reach a total of 739 as compared with 606 in the same period of 1948, and the defaulted liabilities rose 34 per cent to \$15,144,000.

**MR. PEARSON TO COLOMBO CONFERENCE:** The following is the text of the statement on the Colombo Conference made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, at a Press Conference on December 8:

On November 17, during the debate on External Affairs, I stated that Canada would be represented by a Minister at the important forthcoming meeting of Commonwealth Ministers of External Affairs in Colombo, Ceylon. I am now in a position to state that the Government has decided that the Secretary of State for External Affairs should head the Canadian Delegation to this Conference.

The Minister of Fisheries, who will be representing Canada at the meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization at Mysore, India, at the beginning of January, will also, I hope, be available to attend the Colombo Conference.

The advisers to the Canadian Delegation to the Colombo Conference will consist of the Deputy Under-Secretary, Escott Reid; the Head of the Far Eastern Division of the Department, Arthur Menzies; and D.V. LePan of the Economic Division of the Department.

It has been arranged that the newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan, David Johnson, will travel with the Delegation to Colombo en route to his post, and will also act as an advisor. A senior official of the Department of Trade and Commerce will accompany the Delegation because we hope to take advantage of our presence in Karachi, New Delhi and Colombo to explore the possibilities of increased trade between Canada and Pakistan, India and Ceylon.

**LIVING COSTS DOWN:** The Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index receded 0.5 points to 161.7 between October 1 and November 1, 1949. This marked the third successive monthly decline and placed the index 1.1 points below the August peak of 162.8. Easier food quotations again were primarily responsible for the decrease, although the clothing index moved down fractionally. From August 1939 to November 1949 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 60.4 per cent.

The food index dropped 1.7 points to 203.3 during October, due mainly to seasonal weakness for meats coupled with lower prices for eggs and fresh and canned vegetables. These outweighed increases for oranges, lemons and coffee. Clothing, the only other group to register a decline, receded from 184.1 to 183.7, due mainly to decreases for men's overcoats and suits and women's topcoats.

Higher quotations for coal and coke imported from the United States were reflected in a further advance in the fuel and light index from 134.1 to 135.1.