

TIME LOST THROUGH STRIKES: Almost 64 per cent of the total time lost as a result of industrial disputes in Canada during September, 1953, was accounted for by work stoppages in the gold mining industry in Northern Ontario and Quebec, according to a preliminary summary of strikes and lockouts released on October 26 by Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Labour.

These strikes in the mining industry were gold miners at Pamour, South Porcupine and Timmins, Ontario; gold and copper miners and smelter workers at Noranda, Quebec; gold miners and mill workers at Schumacher, Ontario; and gold and silver miners and mill and smelter workers at Timmins, Ontario. These strikes were responsible for a combined time loss of 80,400 man-working days and involved a combined total of 5,167 workers during September, 1953.

Preliminary figures for the month show 37 strikes and lockouts in existence, involving 16,445 workers with a time loss of 126,131 man-working days, as compared with 17 strikes and lockouts in August, 1953, with 8,598 workers involved and a time loss of 92,760 days. The figures for September, 1952, were 39 strikes and lockouts involving 15,144 workers and a time loss of 201,870 days....

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GOODS AND SERVICES EXCHANGE: In the seven years from 1946 to 1952, the exchange of goods and services between Canada and other countries amounted to over \$60 billion. There was a surplus of current receipts over payments of \$340 million.... While there were large outflows and inflows of capital in some periods, the net movement of capital resulted in an inflow of only \$86 million.

These statistics are contained in a new study by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of the balance of payments in the post-war years, which was released on October 26. The report presents, for the first time, quarterly statistics of the current account for the period 1946 to 1952, and of the capital account for the period 1950 to 1952. Revised annual statistics and other new material are included, and there is extensive comment on post-war developments in the current and capital accounts and the balance of indebtedness.

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CANADIAN TO WHO POST: It was announced on October 27 by the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, that Dr. Oliver Leroux, an assistant director of health studies in the department, had left Canada on leave of absence, on his way to take an important post with the World Health Organization in India. Dr. Leroux, who has had many years experience of medical service in India, will be area supervisor for India in the WHO's Regional Office for Southeast Asia. He is expected to be abroad for two years.

NEW INTERNATIONAL FERRY: The Canadian National Railways hope to start operation of the Yarmouth-Bar Harbor ferry -- as a link between Nova Scotia and the New England States -- in 1955, according to a report on the project by H.C.T. Boyd, Montreal, research engineer with the CNR's department of research and development.

Mr. Boyd reported on the progress of the four-year-old ferry development recently in an address to the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce.

The project consists of two million-dollar terminals, one at Yarmouth, N.S.; and the other across the Bay of Fundy at Bar Harbor, and a four-million-dollar ship.

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NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR: On October 26; His Excellency Dmitri Stepanovich Chuvahin presented to His Excellency the Governor-General his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to Canada. The ceremony of presentation took place at Government House.

The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Brooke Claxton, was in attendance on the Governor-General on this occasion. The Chief of Protocol, Mr. H.F. Feaver, presented the Ambassador to the Governor-General. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Leonid F. Teplov, Counsellor of his Embassy. Mr. Lionel Massey, Secretary to the Governor-General, was also present.

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HOURS OF WORK. More than 40 per cent of plant employees in Canadian manufacturing were on a 40-hour week, as of April, 1953, according to an annual survey of working conditions conducted by the Economics and Research Branch of the Department of Labour, figures from which were released today by Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Labour.

The survey showed that the proportion of workers in manufacturing on a 40-hour week had almost doubled since October, 1949. During the same period, the proportion of plants reporting a 5-day week increased from 60 per cent to 80 per cent. The proportion of plant workers on a 48-hour week had dropped to only 10 per cent by April, 1953.

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NEW AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM NAMED: The Department of External Affairs announced on October 23 the appointment of Mr. Charles Hébert, who had been Canadian Ambassador to Mexico since 1949, to be Ambassador to Belgium and Minister to Luxembourg. Mr. Hébert succeeds Lt-General Maurice Pope, whose appointment to Spain was recently announced. Mr. Hébert will take up his post about mid-December.