

COMMERCIAL RENTALS TO BE DECONTROLLED: Announcing the decontrol of rentals of commercial accommodation effective March 8, 1948, Honourable D.C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, said to-day: "On June 19th I advised the House of Commons that it was not the intention of the Government to ask Parliament for power to continue the control of rentals of commercial accommodation after the expiration of the Continuation of the Transitional Measures Act.

"The time has now come to implement the Government's intention by an appropriate Order of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board so that landlords and tenants may safely and legally make forward-contracts and commitments in anticipation of the conditions which will prevail after the control on commercial accommodation has been lifted.

"An Order of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has accordingly been made which revokes all the regulations controlling the rentals and tenures of commercial accommodation with effect March 8, 1948.

"The timing of this revocation will enable any landlord, who is entitled under provincial law to give his tenant a month's notice to vacate, to give or serve such notice at any time after March 7th but no earlier."

RY STRIKE AVERTED

AGREEMENT REACHED: Threat of a nation-wide strike by 125,000 railway workers was removed when the railways and their employees' unions reached an agreement October 25 on the question of paid vacations.

A brief statement issued jointly on behalf of the major railway lines and the brotherhoods disclosed that recommendations made by a conciliation board last June, rejected then by the companies but accepted by the unions, were the basis for the agreement.

The statement said:

"The question of increased vacations with pay for railway employees has been settled on the basis outlined by the report of the board of conciliation. . . .

"Details of the application to the various classes of employees will be a matter of negotiation between the respective organizations and the railways."

Advised in Ottawa of the settlement, Labour Minister Mitchell said, "I never really expected there would be a strike in our railways."

"For years I have been intimately acquainted with the leaders of the railway organization and the officers of the companies, and I never lost hope that an amicable settlement of the differences would be reached."

Under the agreement, employees with one year's service will receive six paid holidays a year; employees with three years will receive nine days, and employees with five years will receive 12.

The railway had contended such a scheme would cost them \$5,000,000 a year and, while

approving the plan in principle, had rejected it because of the cost.

The old holiday arrangement granted paid vacations to many classes of employees, ranging from five days to 18 days, depending upon seniority.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP: Department store sales rose sharply in September, reaching 40 per cent above the August volume and exceeding sales in September a year ago by 20 per cent. The latter increase was the largest for any month of this year, and exceeds by five per cent the average increase for the first nine months of this year over the like period of 1946. Unadjusted indexes, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 287.9 for September, compared with 205.0 for the previous month, and 239.1 for September last year.

SEPTEMBER EXPORTS

SLIGHT RECESSION: Canada's export trade showed a further slight recession in September from the record levels of May and June, but was substantially higher than in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's total was \$218,600,000 compared with \$221,300,000 in August, and \$169,800,000 in September, 1946. The total for the nine months ended September rose to \$2,004,900,000, or 20.5 per cent higher than in the similar period of 1946.

In the nine months ended September, exports to countries of the British Empire were valued at \$845,518,000 compared with \$653,594,000 in the similar period of 1946, an advance of 29.4 per cent, while shipments to foreign countries during the same period had a value of \$1,159,365,000 compared with \$1,010,350,000, an increase of 14.7 per cent. In September, British Empire countries took Canadian goods to the value of \$88,701,000 compared with \$76,452,000, and foreign countries \$129,852,000 compared with \$93,328,000.

An outstanding feature of the month's trade was a sharp advance in shipments to the United States, which rose to \$87,458,000 from \$69,598,000 a year ago, bringing the nine-month total to \$732,979,000 as against \$615,760,000 a year ago. Exports to the United Kingdom showed comparatively little change, amounting to \$54,499,000 compared with \$54,258,000 in September 1946; in the nine-month period, however, the total rose to \$542,626,000 from \$432,596,000.

Exports to Latin American countries as a group continue to advance, being valued at \$12,252,000 in September compared with \$5,056,000, and in the nine months, \$94,318,000 compared with \$62,711,000. September exports to the Union of South Africa were reduced, amounting to \$4,750,000 compared with \$6,034,000 a year ago, but the nine-month total rose from \$48,367,000 to \$52,963,000.

Trade with European countries moved up sharply in September to \$23,221,000 from \$12,079,000 a year ago, but the nine-month aggregate showed little over-all change at \$259,701,000 compared with \$257,461,000. In the nine months, exports to Belgium were valued at \$36,881,000 compared with \$54,904,000; France \$55,957,000 compared with \$54,871,000; Italy \$25,744,000 compared with \$17,845,000; Netherlands \$45,544,000 compared with \$25,392,000; Norway \$16,566,000 compared with \$14,461,000, and Sweden \$13,722,000 compared with \$6,567,000.

Exports to Newfoundland in September were valued at \$5,053,000 compared with \$3,354,000 a year ago, and in the nine months, \$35,930,000 compared with \$27,147,000. September exports to India were recorded at \$5,693,000 compared with \$1,248,000, and in the cumulative period, \$32,271,000 compared with \$39,273,000. Shipments to Australia in the month were valued at \$4,192,000 compared with \$3,291,000, and in the nine months, \$44,640,000 compared with \$26,509,000.

FIVE MILLIONS EMPLOYED

RECORD LABOUR FORCE: Employment in Canada exceeded 5,000,000 for the first time on record in the week ending August 16, when there were 3,880,000 employed men and 1,128,000 employed women. The total of 5,008,000 was about 187,000 higher than the previous recorded high for the last week of May and nearly 150,000 greater than for a comparable period in August last year, reports the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Unemployment in the same week fell to 73,000, down 18,000 since the end of May and 44,000 less than at the end of August, 1946. The number out of work was close to the low level reached during the war, when thousands of men and women were in uniform.

Agricultural employment increased even beyond the high level reached at the end of May to 1,301,000 but was slightly lower than the August figure for last year of 1,317,000. The increase in agricultural employment between the end of May and mid-August was greatest in the Prairie Provinces, amounting to slightly more than 50,000. Ontario and Quebec showed equal increases of roughly 35,000, while there was a gain of 13,000 in the Maritimes and no change in British Columbia.

Employment in industries except agriculture increased by about 30,000 between the end of May and the middle of August. Non-agricultural employment fell by small amounts totalling less than 10,000 in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces, outweighed by gains of about 25,000 in both Ontario and British Columbia and about 10,000 in the Maritime Provinces.

Continuing decline in female employment is one of the most striking developments in the Canadian labour markets since 1945. There is a growing number of women engaged in keeping house with a tendency to withdraw from the labour market, perhaps after a short period of employment.

ISLAND PIER FOR SALE: The list of unusual and strange items of surplus grows daily and just now War Assets Corporation through the Lands and Buildings Department has for disposal a sturdy pier, useful in wartime, but no longer required because the gun battery it was built to serve has been dismantled and is silent.

The pier is located on McNutt Island at the entrance to Shelburne Harbour, N.S. This island faces the Atlantic and a gun battery was erected at the sea end, while at the inner point a boom afforded further protection to the harbour.

On one side of the island the waterway is known as False Passage indicating that it is not the proper entrance to Shelburne Harbour.

The pier was built at the inner end of the island in 1941 to allow supplies to be landed for the use of the garrison manning defense artillery. It measures 100 feet by 20 feet wide, is decked with 4-inch British Columbia fir, and offers an advantageous approach to the island in all weathers.

ARCTIC BROADCAST

PROGRAMMES FOR SCHOOLS: CHAK, the Canadian Army radio station at Aklavik, has undertaken, at the request of the Department of Mines and Resources, to broadcast a series of CBC educational programmes for the benefit of schools and children for whom no schools are available in the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories, the Department of National Defence announced today.

Regular classroom broadcasts are already being made daily by radio stations CKUA at Edmonton, Alta., and CBK at Watrous, Sask., and under ideal conditions these can be picked up by schools in the southern part of the Mackenzie District but cannot normally be heard at Aklavik, Port Brabant and Fort McPherson. There are also a good many Eskimo and Indian children in the northern district who do not attend school because of the nomadic type of life followed by their parents.

The CHAK broadcasts will therefore not only assist teachers in existing schools but may result in a desirable increased interest in education by native children who for various reasons are not attending school. Although cut off from the outside world in many ways, the majority of Eskimo families possess a radio receiver.

The Bureau of Northwest Territories and Yukon Affairs of the Department of Mines and Resources, responsible for education facilities in the Northwest Territories and Yukon, is also providing a number of battery-powered radio receivers to schools not already in possession of such sets, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is providing recordings of any educational broadcasts required by this administration.

A number of 15 and 30 minute recordings has already been selected for the series by J.W.