

**3-NATION ARMY CONFERENCE:** Army engineers from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom will meet at the Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering at Chilliwack, B.C.; from October 18 to October 20 at a tripartite engineer panel, it was announced at Army Headquarters on October 12.

The purpose of the annual conference is to discuss engineering problems common to the three nations, and to review the progress made in standardization of equipment and procedures among the engineers of the three armies.

The discussions will review progress in the fields of mine warfare, demolitions, water supply, airfield construction and use of army vehicles in cold weather operation. Field demonstrations will include heavy bridging and mine warfare equipment and procedures.

A feature of this year's panel will be held on the final day when an air-drop exercise will be carried out by 1 Airborne Troop, Royal Canadian Engineers, at Sumas Airfield.

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**GRAIN POOLS PAYMENTS:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce on October 12 announced that the Canadian Wheat Board 1953-54 Western Barley Pool had been closed as at September 30, 1954. The final payment for distribution to producers is \$9,833,495. During the crop year 1953-54 producers delivered 101,193,953 bushels of barley to the Board. The average net final payment to producers is 9.71747 cents per bushel after deduction of payment expenses and the Prairie Farm Assistance Act levy.

Mr. Howe stated that The Canadian Wheat Board would commence issuing final payment barley cheques on October 19.

The 1953-54 Oats Pool will be closed immediately and final payments on this Pool will be made following the completion of the barley payment.

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**ADMIRAL WRIGHT'S VISIT:** Admiral Jerauld Wright, Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, visited Ottawa this week.

Greeted by the Minister of National Defence, the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and by the Chiefs of Staff of armed services on his arrival on Oct. 12, he later met Ambassadors of NATO countries to Canada and military attachés.

During his two-day stay Admiral Wright had discussions with the Minister of National Defence, the Canadian Chiefs of Staff and with the Cabinet Defence Committee.

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Home nursing and health counselling services were rendered by the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada to 124,164 cases last year, 5,303 fewer than in 1952, but a larger proportion of chronic or long-term illness cases increased the number of visits by 12,115 to 911,414.

**COAL INDUSTRY:** The Canadian coal industry in 1953 continued to show the effect of increasing competition from other fuels. Production at 15,896,194 tons was 9.6 per cent below that of 1952, and 16.9 per cent below the record 19,139,112 tons in 1950. All producing provinces showed some reduction, by far the greatest being in Alberta where the output was about 18 per cent lower than in 1952. That Province contributed about 37 per cent of the total, Nova Scotia 36, Saskatchewan 13, British Columbia and Yukon 9, and New Brunswick 5.

About 39 per cent of the output in 1953 was produced by strip mining which is practised in all provinces with the exception of Nova Scotia. In Saskatchewan, practically all the output is strip mined, in Alberta 57 per cent, in New Brunswick about 73 per cent, and in British Columbia about 19 per cent.

Apparent consumption decreased from 41,353,105 tons in 1952 to 38,140,497 tons in 1953, the decrease being split fairly evenly between Canadian production and imported coal. Imports made up 60.0 per cent of coal consumed compared with 59.5 per cent in 1952. The decrease in consumption was again due mainly to the substitution of fuel oil, diesel fuel and natural gas for coal in domestic and building heating, railway use and power production.

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**MINESWEEPERS FOR FRANCE:** Two new minesweepers constructed in Canadian shipyards were formally transferred to France in a brief ceremony at Halifax on October 9. The ships, HMCS Chaleur and HMCS Miramichi, were the last of six to be turned over to France under the Mutual Aid Agreement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The first four, HMC Ships Fundy, Cowichan, Thunder and Guignecto, were transferred last April.

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**HMCS QUEBEC CRUISE:** The cruiser HMCS Quebec will sail from Halifax October 15 on a six-week cruise to the Caribbean and to ports in South America, it is announced by Naval Headquarters. First port of call for the 8,000-ton cruiser will be Port of Spain, Trinidad, where she will arrive October 22.

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Creamery butter production in September amounted to 34,492,000 pounds as compared with 31,629,000 in the same month last year, bringing the January-September total to 256,849,000 pounds as compared with 247,357,000.

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Production of margarine rose 22% in September to 10,755,000 pounds from 8,795,000 in the corresponding month last year. This raised the cumulative output for the first nine months of the year 7% to 83,346,000 pounds from 77,683,000 in the like 1953 period.