

UNITED NATIONS

MR. WILGRESS CHAIRMAN: Canadian Ambassador Dana Wilgress was appointed chairman of the second session of the contracting parties to the general agreement on tariff and trade which opened on August 16. Mr. Wilgress also served as chairman of the first session of the contracting parties which was held in Havana last March simultaneously with the UN Conference on Trade and Employment.

The contracting parties comprised 22 of the 23 governments that participated in an earlier series of tariff negotiations conducted in Geneva last summer and signed agreements effecting nearly two-thirds of the world's trade. Scheduling of additional negotiations is one of the items on the agenda of the present ten-day session. Mr. Wilgress is also chairman of the Interim-Committee of the International Trade Organization which has established provisional headquarters in Geneva.

At the opening meeting of the session of the contracting parties, the organization for European Economic Cooperation was granted permission to be represented by an observer, in view of the close association of the objectives of the Havana Charter, with the purposes of the C.E.E.C. convention regarding the lowering of trade barriers.

Twenty of the 22 contracting parties were present at the opening meeting. Cuba and Southern Rhodesia being absent. Also attending as observers were representatives of Chile, Denmark, Finland, Haiti, and the Philippines.

In general the current session will be devoted to the discussion of matters arising from administration of the agreement.

FLOUR, BREAD PRICES CONTROLLED: The Wartime Prices and Trade Board announced August 19 that, acting on instructions from the Government, price ceiling control is being reimposed, as of August 19, on all flour made wholly or partly from Western Canada wheat, and all bread made wholly or partly from such flour.

The prices at which the above products are frozen at all trade levels are those which were in effect on July 31st, the date on which the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced the domestic price for wheat and an accompanying subsidy on wheat milled for domestic use.

Government spokesmen pointed out that this subsidy was being paid for the specific purpose of preventing price increases to the consumer and it is now felt that the reimposition of controls is necessary to achieve the purpose intended by the payment of the above mentioned subsidy.

The order, which goes into effect August 19 means that no person may sell flour or bread as above defined to any other person at a price higher than he was charging the same class of buyer on July 31st.

ALBERTA ELECTION: Latest standing in Alberta's 57-seat Legislature as a result of the August 17 provincial election is given August 19 by the Canadian Press as follows:--

	1948	1944
S.C.....	50	51
C.C.F.....	2	2
Lib.....	2	0
Ind.....	1	3
Others.....	0	1
Doubtful....	2	0
Totals....	57	57

WHOLESALE SALES UP: Dollar volume of wholesale sales in June recovered from the slight decline which occurred in May to register an increase of nine per cent over June, 1947, and a gain of six per cent over May, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative sales for the first six months of this year were four per cent above those for the first half of 1947. The general unadjusted index, on the base average for 1935-39=100, stood at 291.1 for June, 273.9 for May, and 267.3 for June, 1947.

Total stocks in the hands of wholesalers in the nine lines of trade surveyed were valued seven per cent higher at the end of June than at the same date a year ago, but were one per cent lower than at the beginning of the month. Five trades reported increases over 1947, stocks held by hardware, automotive equipment, dry goods and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers ranging between 15 and 20 per cent higher in value than at June 30 last year. Drug wholesalers reported an increase of seven per cent in value of stocks on hand. Inventories of grocery, clothing, footwear, and fruits and vegetable wholesalers were seven per cent, 10 per cent, 11 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, below the value at the same date last year.

TOBACCO INDUSTRIES: The net output -- selling values less excise duties and taxes -- of the tobacco manufacturing industries of Canada in 1946 was valued at \$81,800,000, showing a minor decline of \$311,000 from the 1945 figure of \$82,111,000.

(Continued from P. 1)

Satisfactory yields of hay and clover and alfalfa are expected in most provinces. For Canada as a whole, the total production of hay and clover is currently estimated at 15,700,000 tons in comparison with last year's 16,200,000 tons. The production of alfalfa (first cutting) is placed at 2,300,000 tons as against last year's 1,800,000 for the first cutting, the increase being due principally to greater acreage and yields in the province of Ontario.