

JAP DRIFTING MINES: The ships at present at the disposal of the Commanding Officer Pacific Coast are of the right kind to deal with Japanese drifting mines in Canadian West Coast waters, according to a statement issued today by Naval Service Headquarters. "Drifting mines cannot be swept," the statement emphasized, "and destroyers, frigates, and even tugs and other small vessels are suitable for locating such mines, which must either be sunk by gunfire if afloat, or destroyed by detonation if ashore. No special mine-sweeping equipment is required, and would in fact have no value against drifting mines."

During the past eighteen months, the Navy said, a total of forty-six Japanese mines has been reported, and each report has been fully investigated. Seven of the mines reported were clear of coastal shipping routes, and twelve mines were destroyed by the Navy. "A considerable number, although reported in perfectly good faith as mines, were actually not mines. A large amount of timber is always adrift in British Columbia waters, and can easily be mistaken for mines by people unfamiliar with their exact shape and appearance."

It was pointed out that, though an increase in the number of Japanese drifting mines in West Coast waters is possible, no such increase has been in fact established, and the danger which might arise from them is greatly minimized by the facts that a considerable proportion of them may be expected to be inactive due to deterioration, and that a safety device required by the Hague Convention is known to have been fitted to the majority of Japanese mines. "The way to deal with the mines there are, is to sink them by gunfire at sea or destroy them if ashore."

C. O. I. INDEX UP: Higher prices for food, clothing and home furnishings sent the cost-of-living index up another 1.4 points during October and stretched the gain over the last year to more than 16 points, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The index, calculated on the basis 1935-39 equals 100, reached 148.6 at Nov. 1 against 142.2 at Oct. 1 and 127.1 at Nov. 1 last year. On the basis of August, 1939, equalling 100, the index stood at 142.5 as of Nov. 1.

Reporting on the October increase, the Bureau said that higher food prices continued to "dominate" the advance, although each of the sub-group indexes, excepting rentals, moved higher.

The index for the food group rose 2.3 points to 173.6, due mainly to higher prices for eggs, fluid milk, certain meats and canned vegetables. Butter, lamons and a few fresh vegetables, on the other hand, declined slightly.

The clothing group advanced 2.8 points to 157.0, with prices rising in all sub-sections, while home furnishings and services climbed 1.5 to 151.4 on the strength of increases for

furniture, floor coverings, furnishings, dishes and cleaning supplies.

Slightly higher costs for medicinal supplies, personal care items, newspapers and gasoline were responsible for a gain of 0.6 to 118.2 in the miscellaneous items index. Higher prices for coal and coke boosted fuel and lighting by 0.7 to 122.6.

Rentals, under control, remained unchanged at 119.9

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of Edinburgh, the people of Canada extend all good wishes for their future happiness.

Conditions throughout the world, the Speech further states, continue to be difficult and disturbing. Dislocations resulting from the ravages of war have become increasingly apparent. In Europe, production has made only a partial recovery. In Asia, over large areas, active fighting continues. Shortages of the necessities of life, particularly of food, are still acute. In many countries, political and social unrest is serious. Failure to agree on peace settlements with Germany and Austria is preventing recovery of Europe. While unsettled conditions still prevail in Europe and Asia, Canada has continued to enjoy general prosperity. Employment and income have reached levels never before attained. Our country has not been unaffected, however, by the problems and difficulties of other countries. Many nations with which we trade have been unable to restore their full productive capacity. Their consequent inability to increase their exports in sufficient measure to pay for their imports has greatly complicated Canada's foreign exchange situation. A permanent solution of our exchange problems and the future well-being of the nation depend upon revival of world trade.

The Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly took an active part in its proceedings. Canada was elected to a seat on the Security Council. Canada was also represented on the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. Support of the Charter of the United Nations remains an essential feature of Canada's foreign policy.

HIGH EMPLOYMENT LEVEL: In spite of serious losses resulting from the dispute in meat packing plants, substantial expansion in employment was indicated, on the whole, by leading establishments at October 1, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The general gain was seasonal in character, but was rather above average for the time of year. The staffs of the 18, 182 employers in the eight leading industries rose from 1,993,483 at September 1 to 2,007,897 at October 1, or by 0.7 per cent, while weekly salaries and wages aggregated \$75,088,687, an increase of 2.4 per cent over the September 1 total of \$73,285,907. The employment index based on the 1926 average, reached a new maximum of 194.6 at October 1.