

HIGH SEASONAL ACTIVITY

GENERAL LABOR SHORTAGE: A high level of seasonal activity in all branches of industry is currently straining Canadian manpower resources. The labour surplus, as measured by unplaced applicants, is 22,000 below the lowest point recorded during all of 1946, and 63,000 below the level of one year ago, July 11, 1946. Seasonal activity and the improved material situation chiefly account for this general expansion in production. The general shortage of labour supply will likely grow even more acute during the next few months, since peak employment will not be reached until October. In the meantime students on summer vacation will be an additional source of labour.

There were 112,000 unplaced applicants registered with the National Employment Service at July 10, 1947. This compares with 118,000 at June 12, and 175,000 one year ago. The careful placement of applicants over the past few months has left a labour surplus now composed chiefly of workers only partially-qualified, over-age, physically unfit, or whose skills do not match the vacancies locally available. By sex, there were 79,000 male and 33,000 female unplaced applicants, as against 86,000 and 32,000 respectively one month earlier.

Unfilled vacancies totalled 91,000 at July 10, 1947, as compared with 108,000 at June 12. By sex, there were 57,000 unfilled vacancies for men and 34,000 for women at July 10. Jobs for women still outnumber applicants.

The general competition for qualified labour is reflected in high labour turnover, rising wages, and increased pressure for immigration. In primary industries, particularly mining and logging, the need for labour is most urgent. Inter-regional transfers of workers have helped a great deal. The 4,500 Polish veterans brought from Europe since last fall have eased the farm labour situation considerably, although the supply of seasonal harvest workers is currently below demand.

TRADE MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA

HEADED BY MR. MACKINNON: Canada is sending a trade mission to South Africa next September, in an effort to stimulate further the close commercial relations between these two units of the British Commonwealth, announces the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. MacKinnon who will head the delegation.

The Minister will be accompanied by a representative group of Canadian businessmen, including R.C. Berkinshaw, President, Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and Vice-President, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company of Canada, Limited, Toronto; W.M. Drury, President Canadian Car and Foundry Company, Limited, Montreal; Paul Bienvenu, President, Catelli Food Products, Limited, Montreal; D.R. Moffat, Vice-President of Moffats Limited, Weston,

Ontario, E.E.H. Wright, Vice-President, Welland Vale Manufacturing Company, Limited, St. Catharines, Ontario, and others.

In making his announcement, Mr. MacKinnon explained that an invitation had been received from the Government of the Union of South Africa, where he will confer with government authorities. Arrangements have been made to meet with members of the Chamber of Mines, in Johannesburg, various branches of the Chamber of Commerce and other associations interested in the promotion of trade between Canada and South Africa.

The party will proceed by regular air lines, via New York and Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, to Johannesburg, where it is due on September 20th. The mission will return via Nairobi, Kenya Colony; Khartoum, British Sudan; Cairo, Egypt; Rome, Italy; and Lisbon, Portugal. Official stops will be made at Leopoldville, Cairo, Rome and Lisbon, at each of which Canadian Trade Commissioners are stationed, to discuss trade matters.

Canada is vitally interested in the development of trade with South Africa. Her exports to the Union have increased from \$17,996,959 in 1939 to \$68,632,865 in 1946. Imports from South Africa, on the other hand, have risen from a value of \$3,990,881 in 1939 to a value of \$7,891,625 in 1946. Due to major developments in the basic and secondary industries of South Africa, this market is of increasing importance to Canadian manufacturers.

The announcement of this mission recalls previous ones headed by Mr. MacKinnon to a number of Central and South American countries, when he visited the Caribbean area and Panama in 1940, South America in 1941, and again toured the Central American and some South American countries in 1946. These did much to cement relations between Canada and the Latin American countries concerned, and to furnish their respective peoples with a wider knowledge of conditions in these lands.

Canada signed a trade agreement with the Union of South Africa on August 20, 1932, which went into force on October 13th of that year. The agreement extended a list of preferences previously exchanged without a formal agreement. It was made for a period of five years and thereafter until terminated on six months' notice.

AIR AGREEMENT WITH U.K.: The Department of External Affairs announces that the Government of Canada has concluded an Agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom covering air services between Canada and United Kingdom territories in the West Indies and Caribbean areas.

This Agreement, which is similar in form to other bilateral air Agreements which the Canadian Government has already concluded, makes provision for an exchange of traffic rights between Canada and three United Kingdom colonies - Bermuda, Jamaica and Trinidad. In addition, the Agreement gives Canada the right

to carry traffic between certain of these colonies. For a period of four years starting January 1st, 1947, the United Kingdom has undertaken not to exercise its reciprocal traffic rights under the Agreement.

CONFERENCE ON JAPAN: The Department of External Affairs announces that the Canadian Government had received a communication from the United States Government proposing a conference of representatives of the eleven member nations of the Far Eastern Commission to discuss a peace treaty with Japan. The date tentatively suggested by the United States for such a conference was August 19.

The Canadian Government has replied, welcoming the proposal made by the United States Government for the convening of a conference at an early date, and expressing satisfaction with the provision in the proposal for the eleven Powers primarily interested in the settlement with Japan to participate fully from the beginning in the preparation of the Japanese treaty.

The Canadian reply further indicated that since the Canadian Government had accepted an invitation from the Australian Government to attend a meeting of representatives of Commonwealth Governments in Canberra on August 26 for the purpose of exchanging views informally on the Japanese peace settlement, it would find it difficult to be represented at a conference in the United States on the suggested tentative date of August 19. The hope was expressed that some other early date could be agreed upon that would not conflict with the discussions arranged to take place in Canberra.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

100,000 OFFICIAL INVITATIONS: More than four times the space originally estimated has already been applied for by Canadian firms intending to exhibit their products in the first Canadian International Trade Fair, to be held in Toronto May 31 to June 12 next year, according to Canadian Trade Fair authorities. Four hundred and eighty manufacturers and producers from all parts of the world have so far requested reservations for 106,980 square feet of display space for products ranging from hairpins to aeroplanes.

Closing date for applications from foreign exhibitors is September 1st, and until that time there will be no accurate estimate of the number of displays expected from abroad. However substantial numbers of applications are already in from manufacturers in a score of foreign countries, including Borneo, Belgium, Turkey, India, Thailand, Iran, Italy, Germany, France, Holland, China, Switzerland, British West Indies, and Latin-American countries. Substantial representation is also indicated from the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia.

More than 100,000 official invitations to attend the Trade Fair will be distributed in five languages next September to buyers and buying organizations abroad. Further to insure attendance by buyers from all parts of the world, a comprehensive advertising campaign will be directed to them in the leading British and American international magazines, in addition to local publications which will carry the message in approximately fifteen languages in more than 60 different countries.

The assurance of success for the first Canadian International Trade Fair is especially heartening to Canadian manufacturers and producers who, by the summer of 1948, may be looking further afield for markets to maintain and expand production. The fair will come at a time when many of our loans and credits to foreign nations may be approaching exhaustion and Canadian export trade seriously affected by the dollar volume of imports. In this respect the Canadian International Trade Fair will afford all buyers the opportunity of seeing what can be obtained and so create further markets abroad.

During 1946 it was estimated that more than 12,000 buyers from countries abroad paid visits to this country. It may well be that, due to the expanse of Canada, many of them found it practically impossible to cover centres of production during the period of their stay. Subsequently these businessmen did not get a clear picture of the diversity and extent of our productivity.

In 1948 however, Canada invites all buyers to participate in the Canadian International Trade Fair where business connections may be made at one point of contact only.

Further indication of the Fair's success lies in the fact that two-way world trade affects each man and woman in every country - there is a growing consciousness on the part of the average man, through wider knowledge of contemporary affairs, that the International Trade Fair is his own personal concern, for he knows that increased two-way trade means increased prosperity, greater employment, and a higher standard of living for himself and his family.

Sponsored by the Government of Canada, the Canadian International Trade Fair is the first ever to be held on the North American Continent.

WRECK OF S.S. EMPEROR

INQUIRY COURT'S REPORT: The Minister of Transport, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, has announced the findings of the investigation into the stranding and sinking of the s.s. "EMPEROR" in Lake Superior on June 4 last with the loss of 12 lives. The report of the Court of Investigation is signed by Mr. Justice F.E. Barlow of the Supreme Court of Ontario as Commissioner, Captain Angus G. McKay and Captain F.J. Davis as Assessors. The report places the blame for the wreck on James Morrey, the First