

TIME LOSS DUE TO WORK STOPPAGES: Time loss due to work stoppages arising from industrial disputes during August, 1950, was higher than the previous month due mainly to the strike of non-operating railway workers which accounted for 94 per cent of the total time lost during the month, according to a summary of strikes and lockouts issued on September 23 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg.

Although the time loss was higher, the number of strikes in existence during August, 1950, was considerably lower than in the previous month and slightly lower than in August, 1949.

Preliminary figures for August, 1950, show 19 strikes and lockouts in existence, involving 129,787 workers with a time loss of 1,053,000 man-working days, as compared with 32 work stoppages in July, 1950, with 6,379 workers involved and a time loss of 50,750 days. In August, 1949, there were 20 strikes and lockouts, involving 4,574 workers with a time loss of 36,276 days.

For the first eight months of this year, preliminary figures show 99 strikes and lockouts, involving 149,122 workers with a time loss of 1,263,322 man-working days. For the same period in 1949, there were 92 strikes with 32,005 workers involved and a time loss of 766,013 days.

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NEW ATOMIC RESEARCH TOOL AT CHALK RIVER:

A new research tool has recently been put into operation at the NRC Chalk River atomic energy plant. It is an electrostatic accelerator, or van de Graaff generator, capable of producing at least four million volts, and is used as a source of high speed atomic beams for breaking up atomic nuclei. In this regard it will serve as supplementary equipment to the atomic pile. It can produce beams of charged particles of accurately known energy and direction in contrast to the great numbers of slow neutrons provided by the pile. Similar accelerators in the United States and in England are playing an important role in the study of atomic nuclei. The machine at Chalk River was designed and built in NRC's Radio and Electrical Engineering Division at Ottawa, after consultation with the inventor Dr. van de Graaff of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

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NAVAL APPOINTMENTS: The appointment of Lieut.-Cdr. (P) Raymond Phillips, R.C.N., 28, of Ottawa, as commanding officer of the Esquimaux-based training frigate H.M.C.S. Antigonish was announced on September 25 at Naval Headquarters.

He succeeds Lieut.-Cdr. William S.T. McCully, R.C.N., 31, of Kingston and Vancouver, who has been appointed officer-in-charge of the Torpedo Anti-Submarine School at H.M.C.S. Stadacona, Halifax.

"KILL OR BE KILLED": A recent training directive to the Canadian Army Special Force makes it clear to all ranks that their probable enemy is ruthless in his execution of war and "does not fight according to the rules as we know them.

"He knows only one rule: 'kill or be killed'", the directive points out, adding: "this, too, must be our guide."

Accordingly, training officers and NCOs are seeing to it that all weapons training is as practical as possible.

In place of standard "bulls-eye" targets normally used in the production of marksmen and snipers, "disappearing" and "surprise" targets simulating situations likely to occur on a battlefield are being used as much as possible.

Snipers, once they have proven themselves to be excellent shots, are being trained in physical endurance, powers of observation and fieldcraft. Emphasis is being placed on development of the characteristics of patience and mental stability under trying conditions, especially when working alone in front of and away from one's own troops. One phase of sniper training calls for long periods of lying or sitting motionless before getting off a fast, accurate shot at a barely visible target.

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RIEL'S GRANDSONS TO FIGHT IN KOREA:

Two grandsons of Louis Riel, leader of the Riel Rebellion in Western Canada in 1885, have enlisted in the Canadian Army Special Force for service in Korea with the United Nations Forces.

Both from Winnipeg, they are Ignace Riel, 26, who in the Second World War was twice wounded while serving in Northwest Europe with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, and Alex Riel, a veteran of five years' service with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders from 1940 to 1945.

The two men were among the first to enlist in the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and now are training at Currie Barracks, Calgary.

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1949 STORE SALES UP 6.5 P.C.:

The long uninterrupted rise in department store sales continued during 1949, when the aggregate value was \$855,488,000, up 6.5 per cent over the 1948 total of \$803,092,000. This increase was moderate in comparison with the 13 per cent in stocks. The average month-end inventory value in 1949 was \$189,000,000 compared with an average figure of \$167,300,000 in 1948.

The moderate increase in department store sales was a condition which affected specialty stores as well, but is not necessarily an indication of any relaxation of consumer ability or propensity to consume. Last year, the retail distribution of new motor vehicles rose sharply and cash output for down payments, together with commitments assumed by those