

for which statistics are available -- amounted to 4,133,735 gallons compared with 4,213,550.

Sales of alcoholic beverages by Provincial Liquor Control Boards or their agents in the provincial fiscal years ended in 1946 (the latest available) aggregated \$373,276,000 compared with \$289,085,000 in the previous 12-month period.

## NEW RECORDS IN EMPLOYMENT

**BUSINESSMEN'S OPTIMISM:** The year 1947 saw all previous levels of employment surpassed, and the lowest volume of peacetime unemployment on record, it was shown by the current manpower picture released by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

An acute labour shortage prevailed throughout the months of seasonal activity and industrial needs were met only through movement of workers within the labour force and selective immigration. The year witnessed only two serious labour-management disputes -- in meat-packing and Maritimes coal mining; in general, wage increases were negotiated without costly work stoppages, in marked contrast to 1946 strike activity.

Foreign and domestic demand sustained capacity production and encouraged expansion. But toward the end of the year the effectiveness of foreign demand was threatened due to the world-wide shortage of American dollars. Many countries were forced to adopt import restrictions to conserve dollars.

Canada's dollar saving program began at the time of year when seasonal activity is ending in agriculture and construction. Logging expansion, Christmas trade and service activity helped to absorb many of the displaced workers, but the seasonal upswing in unemployment will continue usually until spring. Indications are this year that the decline in employment is slightly more than seasonal, since uncertainty as to the effect of import restrictions is dampening many employers' demand for labour, particularly in manufacturing industries. But the outlook, once temporary difficulties are solved, is promising and optimism prevails amongst businessmen in general; they do not foresee any recession in 1948 according to most recent information.

Unplaced applicants registered with the National Employment Service totalled 135,000 at December 18, 23,000 below the level of the same period in 1946. The seasonal increase of 29,000 since November 13 occurred chiefly in the Quebec, Ontario and Prairie regions, amongst unskilled workers. There were 103,000 male and 32,000 female unplaced applicants at December 18, as compared with 73,000 and 33,000 respectively at November 13.

**BONUS FOR WOOL-GROWERS:** Saskatchewan will pay provincial wool growers a bonus of two cents per pound on clean wool from the 1947 clip if it meets certain specific requirements.

## FUR SEAL PROTECTION

**NOTES EXCHANGED WITH U.S.:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced January 6 that the United States and Canada had exchanged notes providing for continuing protection of the fur seal herd of the North Pacific. The exchange of notes effected December 26, 1947, will continue the present Provisional Fur Seal Agreement between those two countries until a permanent convention can be arranged.

The original Sealing Convention for the Protection and Preservation of the Fur Seal Herd of the North Pacific Ocean was signed in 1911 by the United States, Great Britain, Japan, and Russia. In October 1941, this Convention was abrogated by Japan. During the war the Governments of Canada and the United States felt it advisable that the two countries should continue the protection of the herd. They therefore entered into a provisional Agreement for the duration of the emergency and twelve months thereafter in order to carry on the fur seal conservation program during the war.

The Fur Seal conservation Program was designed to rehabilitate the stock of fur seals in the North Pacific, which had become seriously depleted by the practice of ruthless pelagic sealing. The original convention was intended to rebuild the herd, primarily by the prohibition of pelagic sealing. In 1912, the first year that the Convention was in effect, the size of the Pribilof Islands herd was about 216,000; by sound conservation and management practices the herd has now increased to over 3,600,000, according to the annual census taken in August, 1947. The sealing operations in these Islands are administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

Canada receives 20 per cent of the fur seal skins, which in the fiscal year 1946-47 yielded net returns to the Government of Canada of \$632,722.00.

## EXERCISE MOCCASIN

**EIGHT WEEKS IN THE BARRENS:** Nineteen men of the Royal Canadian Signals and 11 Royal Canadian Army Service Corps men are slated for a cold winter just south of Fort Churchill, Man., where they will live for eight weeks in temporary camps of tents and igloos or on the trail.

In announcing "Exercise Moccasin", Army Headquarters has revealed that the signalmen will test Service radio equipment and ground wave ranges in cold weather while the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps will gain valuable experience in operating tractor trains for supply duties.

Two mobile signal stations will travel in snowmobiles towing sleds, spending 12 days at each temporary station they set up. A master station will remain in one spot for the duration of the exercise.

RCASC personnel will operate tractors pulling a "train" of 10-ton sleds and a ca-boose. Three men will form the crew of each train.

The soldiers will remain out in the barrens approximately eight weeks, a new experience for most of them. They are now undergoing a two-week winter hardening course at Churchill after which the exercise proper will commence. Native pattern mukluks are being made by the natives of Aklavik, N.W.T., to cope with the cold-foot problem.

An RCAF Norseman aircraft will be used for the initial survey of the signal station sites and will stand by for possible emergency need.

## INCREASE IN IMMIGRATION

**9,000 RETURN FROM UNITED STATES:** When final December figures are available, immigration to Canada during 1947 is expected to exceed a total of 75,000, the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Glen, has announced.

Of this total, over 9,000 are Canadians returning from the United States. This figure compares with a total of 5,177 for 1946, and shows that in 1947 almost twice as many Canadians returned to take up residence again in their own country as in the previous year.

During the year 1946, Mr. Glen stated, 66 per cent of all immigration was made up of the families of returning Service men who were brought to Canada by transport. That flow has now ceased. In spite of this, and in spite of the almost insuperable difficulty of finding ocean transport, the number of immigrants entering Canada increased each month during 1947. A comparison between November 1946 and November 1947 showed an 89 per cent rise in the latter month. For the same comparative periods, immigration from the British Isles rose 95.3 per cent.

By the 1st of October 1947 the Canadian Government's original decision to admit 5,000 Displaced Persons, had been raised twice and multiplied by four. Additional to this basic quota of 20,000, were those Displaced Persons whose relatives in Canada had made application for their entry and guaranteed their support on arrival.

A total of 7,346 Displaced Persons have already reached Canada and it is expected that by the spring the full quota of 20,000 will have arrived. Six Canadian Immigration teams for the selection of Displaced Persons are now working in Europe with headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany.

During 1947, Canadian Immigration offices were re-opened in Paris and Brussels and a new one established at the Hague. Arrangements were made with the Department of External Affairs whereby officials of that Department agreed to handle immigration business in capitals where no immigration offices have as

yet been established. These capitals are Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Lisbon, Berne, Prague, Moscow, Warsaw and Athens.

## COST OF LIVING UP

**INDEX INCREASE OF 2.4 POINTS:** The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, rose a further 2.4 points to 146.0 between November 1 and December 1, 1947. The rise in the index since December 1, 1946, was 18.9 points, and since April, 1947, 15.4 points. When adjusted to the base, August 1939=100, the Dominion cost-of-living index moved up from 142.5 on November 1 to 144.8 on December 1.

The index for food prices recorded a further sharp increase from 173.6 on November 1 to 178.7 on December 1 as dairy products, vegetables and fruits moved higher. There was a moderate decrease in egg prices while meats showed little change. Removal of the sales tax for electricity and gas rates reduced the fuel and light index from 122.6 to 120.3; this was the only budget group to move lower.

Increases in clothing were general, and the index for this group continued upward from 157.0 to 159.3. Home furnishings and services advanced from 151.4 to 154.9 on higher prices for furniture, textile furnishings, electrical equipment and hardware. The miscellaneous items index mounted from 118.2 to 119.8, while rents remained at 119.9.

**ANIMAL FAT PRICES:** Wartime Prices and Trade Board announces that a three cent per pound increase is now in effect in the prices of animal fats and greases and a one cent per pound increase in the price of neatsfoot oil.

These increases are necessitated, officials explain because of the existing low level of animal fat prices which has retarded the production of these soapmaking raw materials as well as edible tallow used in the manufacture of shortening.

No increase in consumer prices will result from the adjustment in prices as soap and shortening manufacturers will receive additional subsidy payments to compensate for the difference in prices.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITY:** Reflecting the high level of economic activity, cheques cashed against individual accounts in the first eleven months of 1947 aggregated \$67,687,017,000 compared with \$63,312,429,000 in the similar period of 1946, an increase of seven per cent. Each of the five economic areas except Ontario showed an increase. Cheques cashed in November totalled \$6,774,051,000 compared with \$6,211,495,000 a year earlier, an advance of nine per cent.