

The Postmaster General said his department felt that, because of the vast distances involved in the handling of Canadian parcel post, it was necessary that air transportation be made as economical and as efficient as possible. He felt that the new, more attractive rates would result in an increase in volume for this type of postal service.

The new domestic rates are scheduled to go into effect September 1. The new international rates will probably be in operation in August.

Concurrently with the reduction in international air parcel post rate, there will be a general increase in surface rates for international parcel post for the first time since 1952. The increase, due to higher handling costs, will vary according to the country of destination and the weight of the parcel.

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## INITIAL GRAIN PAYMENTS

Initial payments for the basic grades of western wheat, oats and barley, at the same level as the present crop year's, were announced for 1961-62 by Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton in the House of Commons on July 6.

The initial payments effective August 1 are: wheat-\$1.40 a bushel, basis No. 1 Northern, in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver; oats-60 cents a bushel, basis No. 2 Canada Western, in store Fort William/Port Arthur; barley-96 cents a bushel, basis No. 3 Canada Western Six-Row, in store Fort William/Port Arthur.

For all other grades of wheat, oats and barley, the initial payments for the 1961-62 crop year will be established at a later date on the recommendation of the Canadian Wheat Board.

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## NIGERIAN TRADE MISSION

A trade and economic mission from Nigeria arrived in Ottawa on July 12, and visited Toronto and Montreal before leaving on July 15 for London, England. The 23-member mission was headed by Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh, Nigerian Minister of Finance, two additional federal ministers and three provincial ministers.

The purpose of the mission was to stimulate trade between Nigeria and Canada, to discuss the possible investment of Canadian capital in Nigeria with government officials and businessmen, and to consider the provision of technical assistance by Canada in the development of this new member of the Commonwealth.

Concerning the visit of the Nigerian Mission, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. George Hees, said that Nigeria's stable economy and rising standard of living rendered it a particularly attractive market for Canadian goods, which was the reason for the decision to hold a Canadian trade fair in Lagos in January 1962. Canadian exports to Nigeria last year had a value of \$2.3 million, compared with \$900,000 the previous year. The principal items

were flour and automobiles, but exports from this country also included non-ferrous metals, foodstuffs and consumer goods.

During their stay in this country, members of the mission met many of the Canadian manufacturers interested in the trade fair at Lagos, in addition to other exporters, importers, bankers, shipping agents and other businessmen interested in the Nigerian market.

Members of the mission included: Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh, Minister of Finance; Z. B. Dipcharima, Minister of Commerce and Industry; J. C. Obande, Acting Minister of Works; Chief A. O. Adeyi, Minister of Trade and Industry in the Western Region; Dr. A. N. Abonna, Minister of Economic Planning in the Eastern Region; Alhaji Mohamadou Bashir, Wamban Daura, Minister of Local Government in the Northern Region.

During their visit to Toronto, the four Nigerian businessmen met Canadian businessmen in the Board of Trade Building, where a reception was held later for all members of the mission.

While in Montreal, the Nigerian businessmen met Canadian businessmen in the Board of Trade Building, where a buffet luncheon was held for all members of the mission.

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## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index was unchanged at 129.0 between the beginning of May and June. Declines in the components for transportation, health and personal care, and for recreation and reading, balanced increases in the food and clothing components. The components for housing and tobacco and alcohol remained unchanged.

The food index rose 0.2 per cent from 123.2 to 123.5 as a result of higher prices for a variety of food items, including most fresh fruits and vegetables, pork, eggs, sugar, and cereals. Beef, chicken and turkey prices were at lower levels, while price declines were also reported for fresh tomatoes, strawberries, and frozen orange juice.

The housing index was unchanged at 132.9, as both the shelter and household-operation components remained at May levels. In shelter, a fractional increase in the rent index -- the first in six months -- just balanced a similar decrease in the home-ownership index. In household operation, lower prices for coal and textiles offset price increases for furniture, floor coverings, and utensils and equipment; the index for household supplies and services was unchanged.

## CLOTHING

The increase of 0.1 per cent in the clothing index, from 112.4 to 112.5, reflected higher prices for men's and children's wear, piece goods and clothing services, which include laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repairs. Footwear prices were unchanged, while prices were lower for women's wear.

The transportation index declined 0.4 per cent from 141.8 to 141.2 as a result of lower gasoline prices in the automobile-operation component, combined with a decrease in some local transportation

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