

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: Preliminary review of initial applications received for exhibitors' space at the 1949 Canadian International Trade Fair indicate that the Textile and Apparel group will again occupy greater floor space than any other of the 21 trade classifications in the mammoth show. It will be held again in the Exhibition Grounds, Toronto, from May 30 to June 10.

Special interest will be roused by the composite exhibit of British textiles which is expected to occupy from 15,000 to 20,000 square feet, according to Sir E. Raymond Streat, CBE, Chairman of the British Textile Committee on Exhibitions and Fairs. Among the associated groups said to be reserving substantial space are 25 members of the National Wool Textile Export Corporation, and members of the Furnishing Fabric Federation and the rayon industry in the United Kingdom.

The Czechoslovak textiles which attracted so much attention, and were reported to have done very substantial business at the first Trade Fair, will be back in full force. Particularly noteworthy among the newcomers will be the 1200 square feet reserved for the Union Textile of France, whose famous fashion fabrics were not represented at the 1948 Fair. Up until this date there have been reservations for space to exhibit textiles from three countries not represented in this classification last year, and several additional newcomers are expected. It would appear now that Canadian textiles, which led the field in point of space occupied last year, will probably take second place to the United Kingdom in 1949.

Allocation of space is now being made by the space committee on the basis of applications in hand covering every one of the 21 different trade classifications. Initial preference is being given to 1948 exhibitors, but later applications will be subject to the availability of space.

FISHERIES CONFERENCE: The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Fisheries have announced the composition of the Canadian Delegation to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Conference to be held in Washington beginning January 26, 1949.

Head of Delegation

Mr. Stewart Bates, Deputy Minister of Fisheries

Alternate

Dr. A. W. H. Needler, Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries

Advisers

Mr. S. V. Ozere, Department of Fisheries
Mr. F. M. Tovell, Department of External Affairs

Secretary to the Delegation

Mr. F. H. Wooding, Department of Fisheries

The Conference is being convened by the United States Government to discuss joint international co-operation in the investigation and, where necessary, the conservation of the fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic.

Invitations to the Conference have been extended to the following countries which are actively engaged in fishing operations in the waters of this area: Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Newfoundland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

PHYSICAL FITNESS APPOINTMENTS: J. H. Ross of Calgary, Ernest Lee of Vancouver and Dr. W. C. Ross of Halifax have been re-appointed members of the National Council on Physical Fitness, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, announced January 22.

All three are the directors of physical fitness and recreation in their provinces. The Alberta and Nova Scotia representatives have been members of the National Fitness Council since its organization early in 1944, and Mr. Lee has represented British Columbia for the past year and a half. The present appointments are for a further term of three years each.

The National Council on Physical Fitness meets twice yearly to advise the federal Government on the development of the fitness and recreation operated under the National Physical Fitness Act.

WHOLESALE SALES UP: Dollar volume of wholesale sales in November was two per cent below the October level, but seven per cent in excess of November 1947, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative sales for the 11 months ending November were four per cent higher than in the similar period of 1947. The general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 316.2 compared with 321.9 for October and 295.0 for November, 1947.

All regions registered increases in dollar volume of sales over November, 1947, Quebec leading with a gain of 10 per cent, followed by British Columbia with a rise of eight per cent, and the Prairie Provinces seven per cent. Wholesalers in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces showed lesser advances of four and one per cent, respectively.

RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUES: During October last year Canadian railways earned a record \$82,839,900 from operations, an increase of 4.2 per cent over the previous monthly high of \$79,481,743 in September and of 18.6 per cent over the earnings of \$69,820,158 in October a year earlier. Normally, October is the most active month of the railway year in Canada.

"PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES, 1944-47"

D. B. S. REVIEW: Price movements in Canada during the nine years 1939 to 1947, embracing war and postwar years, will long remain a fertile field for students of prices, states the Bureau of Statistics in its publication "Prices and Price Indexes, 1944-47" -- the 21st in a series dating from 1918-1922.

During the early part of the period 1939-1947, Canada with many other countries established a highly organized system of controls over prices, wages and industrial production. Virtually complete control lasted about four years.

Wholesale prices and living costs in Canada during the Second World War followed the same general pattern. During the first few weeks of hostilities, there was a sharp upsurge, followed by a period of gradual but accelerating advance. The general wholesale commodity price index moved upward to 83.2 in March, 1940, from an August 1939 low of 72.3. During the German offensive in the spring of 1940 there was a minor reaction and the wholesale index dropped back to 81.7 in June. From that point it began to recover, at first gradually, and later with increasing rapidity as output of war materials gained in volume. This rise in prices led to the establishment of over-all price "ceilings" in December, 1941, when the index stood at 93.5. By that time the cost-of-living index had moved up from 100.8 in August, 1939, to 115.8.

During the next four years, every effort was made to minimize advances in consumer price levels, and they showed very little change. Producers' and other intermediate prices in some instances were less rigidly held, and by July, 1945, general wholesale prices had reached 104.6. The termination of war was followed by a very slight reaction lasting approximately two months, after which a sharp rise began as the systematic removal of price controls proceeded. There was a lull in the third quarter of 1946 but prices moved ahead again unchecked throughout 1947. By December of that year the general wholesale in-

dex had reached 143.5. This was well above any level touched since 1920, but still considerably short of the 164.3 peak recorded for May of that year.

In the four years following the imposition of price ceilings increasing upward pressure on consumer price levels was eased to some extent by the use of subsidies. These were applied at varying price levels. In the important case of milk, production was encouraged by special producer payments, while at the same time a subsidy at the retail level reduced consumer prices. The success of efforts to control the retail price level is indicated by the fact that the cost-of-living index for December, 1945, was 120.1, only 4.3 points above the December, 1941 level.

The decontrol phase may be dated for practical purposes from February, 1946. The removal of price controls and the withdrawal of subsidies proceeded gradually during 1946, but by the end of 1947 rent control was the only major phase of the consumer price stabilization programme still in operation. The reaction of prices to decontrol was sharp, as indicated by a 25.9 point rise in the cost-of-living index during 1946 and 1947.

Although the over-all increase in the cost-of-living index between August, 1939 and December, 1947 was 44.8 per cent, advances in indexes for budgetary groups varied widely from this average increase. Comparable figures showing the average price rise recorded for principal budget groups were as follows: foods, 80.0; rent, 15.5; fuel and light, 21.5; clothing, 59.1; home furnishings and services, 53.5; and miscellaneous items, 18.3.

Taking account not only of the increases shown by these groups, but also of their comparative importance in calculating the rise of 44.8 per cent in the total index, price changes in each budget group made the following contributions to the over-all increase: foods, 24.5; rent, 2.9; fuel and light, 1.3; clothing, 7.1; home furnishings and services, 4.8; and miscellaneous items, 4.2.

APPOINTMENTS: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on January 25 the following appointments:

Mr. Charles Pierre Hébert, who has been Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Canada in Cuba, has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada in Mexico, to succeed Mr. Sydney David Pierce, who was recently appointed Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. R. G. Riddell, Head of the United Nations Division, has been appointed Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. John W. Holmes, who was First Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow from November, 1947, to September, 1948, has returned to Ottawa and has been appointed Acting Head of the United Nations Division.

Brief biographies are as follows:-

CHARLES P. HÉBERT: Born at Montreal in 1899. Educated at Mount St. Louis Collegiate, McGill University, (B. A.) and New College, Oxford (B. A. and M. A.). Served as a member of the Canadian Tariff Board, a Commissioner on the Trade and Industry Commission, and on the staff of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.