

**RADIOLOGISTS' CONFERENCE:** Leading radiologists and health physicists of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States will attend a conference on radiation tolerances to be held at the Canadian Atomic Energy establishment at Chalk River, Ontario, September 29-30, the Atomic Energy Control Board announced on September 22.

The conference will be held under the Technical Co-operation Programme of the three countries, which was established early in 1948 and is under the general direction of the Combined Policy Committee created in August, 1943. The subjects to be discussed at the conference will be in the area of health and safety.

One of the primary purposes of the conference will be to hold discussions leading toward the establishment of uniform radiation tolerance standards between the atomic energy projects of the three nations.

The Canadian representatives will be under the leadership of Dr. W.B. Lewis, Director of Research, Atomic Energy Project, Chalk River. The United Kingdom group will be led by Professor J.S. Mitchell of Cambridge University, while the American delegation will be headed by Dr. Shields Warren, Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine, United States Atomic Energy Commission, Washington.

**CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION:** Business activities of the Canadian Commercial Corporation during the year ended March 31, 1949, involving more than \$200 million, were reviewed in the annual report of the Crown-operated agency, tabled in the House of Commons on September 20 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe.

A total of 65,308 contracts, amounting to some \$145 million, were placed by the Canadian Commercial Corporation on behalf of the Department of National Defence. These contracts were for manufactured goods, construction and service, and included \$16.5 million for the construction of 1,624 houses.

All the work of the Corporation involved in the negotiation and awarding of contracts on behalf of the Department of National Defence was carried out at a cost of approximately one half of one per cent of the total contract value.

Foreign governments and agencies used the services of the Canadian Commercial Corporation to make purchases in Canada valued at more than \$35.7 million. These purchases included metals, industrial, agricultural and automotive equipment, ships, ammunition, fertilizers, chemicals, communications and electrical equipment, foodstuffs, petroleum products, aircraft, medical stores and clothing and textiles.

The Corporation's services were retained for this purpose by the Governments of China, Czechoslovakia, the United States, the Netherlands East Indies, the Netherlands, Portugal, Pakistan, India, Mozambique, the United Kingdom, Bi-Zonal Germany, France and South Africa as well as by the International Refugee Organization, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees.

**MR. PEARSON ELECTED CHAIRMAN:** Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, was elected Chairman of the UN General Assembly's First (Political and Security) Committee on September 20. The UN Press Bureau reported the event as follows:

At 12:02 p.m. the President adjourned the Plenary Meeting, and called to order the First (Political and Security) Committee for the election of its Chairman.

Dr. José Arce (Argentina) nominated Lester B. Pearson (Canada). This nomination was supported by Paul van Zeeland (Belgium).

Stefan Wierblowski, of Poland, nominated Dr. Adolf Hoffmeister (Czechoslovakia).

As there were no further nominations, the President called upon the members of the First Committee to cast their ballots.

The result was as follows, with 58 valid ballots (three abstentions) and a majority of 29 required:

Mr. Pearson	49
Dr. Hoffmeister	5
Joseph Bech (Luxembourg)	1

The President declared Mr. Pearson elected as Chairman of the First Committee.

Paul Martin (Canada), speaking on behalf of Mr. Pearson, first explained that the newly-elected Chairman had been unavoidably detained in Canada. However, said Mr. Martin, Mr. Pearson would leave for New York tomorrow (Wednesday).

In conclusion, on behalf of Mr. Pearson and of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Martin expressed appreciation to the delegates of the General Assembly for having elected Mr. Pearson as Chairman of the First Committee.

**HARVESTING REPORT:** Harvesting in Manitoba and Saskatchewan is nearly finished, although wet weather has delayed completion of cutting and threshing in some northern areas, particularly Saskatchewan. The harvest is about completed in southern Alberta, but in central and northern areas of the Province cool, wet weather has retarded progress to the extent that threshing will not be finished before early October. Heavy frosts have caused considerable grade and yield loss to coarse grains in this area, the Bureau of Statistics reported on September 20.

### NEW HOUSING PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

**ASSISTS HOME OWNERSHIP:** Following is the partial text of the statement in the House of Commons, by the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, Mr. Winters, on September 21, on the proposed new housing programme:

"...It is proposed to seek amendments to the National Housing Act this session to provide financing facilities to assist home owners in down payment requirements. It is considered that such financing facilities would widen the bank of potential home owners. It is proposed that the present level of loans to house builders would be little changed. However, it is proposed to seek amendment to the Act extending authority to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to make a loan to the home owner purchasing the house from the builder in an amount of one sixth of the loan which has been made to the builder, provided that the sale price to the home owner is fair and reasonable. This would have the effect of providing financing for the home owner to the extent of approximately half of his present down payment requirements. Because of the danger in such an arrangement that the increased loan to the home owner would have the effect of increasing the sale price of the house, the provision of such extra financing for the home owner would be limited to houses which have been sold at a fair and reasonable price. There would be no restrictions upon the builder as to the price at which he may sell the house. However, the extra loan would only be made to the home owner if at the time of application for such extra loan, we were satisfied that the sale price was fair and reasonable. Although this larger N.H.A. loan would take the form of two advances, the first to the builder and the second to the home owner, the original mortgage deed under which advances would be made to the builder would be written at an amount sufficient to avoid additional registration and legal costs if a further loan was made to the home owner.

#### HOME BUILDERS

"The same principles would be applicable to individuals who are making arrangements to construct their own homes and are not buying them from builders. Larger loans would be available to such individuals provided that the cost to the home owner of building his house was fair and reasonable...

"It is proposed also to seek changes to the section of the National Housing Act dealing with co-operatives. In the light of present conditions this section is not effective. Investigation is now going on in three Provinces where co-operative housing is general, and I am hopeful that at the time other amendments are introduced, we will be ready to proceed with amendments to the co-operative section of the National Housing Act.

"We also propose to introduce legislation to enable the federal Government to enter into agreements with the Provinces for publicly assisted housing projects. These projects may take the form of the assembly of land and services to enable an increased volume of housing by private builders. They may take the form of the federal Government and Province proceeding with moderate priced houses for sale to home owners. They also may take the form of rental projects, in which event the federal Government and the Province would seek local management for the completed project.

"During our conversations the Provinces favoured the first two forms of project. They appreciated that there is a demand for redevelopment and slum clearance. However, with the present high cost of acquisition of land for redevelopment, the high cost of construction for centrally located fireproof residential development, as well as the difficulty in rehousing families presently occupying land suitable for redevelopment, there is reason for the conclusion that whereas rental housing of this kind may be desirable, now is not the time to proceed on a large scale. I would point out, however, that the terms of the enabling legislation will be broad and flexible enough to enable arrangements with the Provinces which would include rental projects either on an economic or a subsidized basis. Subject to the very real difficulties which I have just mentioned, the federal Government is prepared to proceed with rental housing projects in co-operation with the Provinces.

#### SAFEGUARDS PROVIDED

"With safeguards that the residential units to be built are of a modest type, the legislation contemplates agreements between the federal Government and the Provinces to enter into projects in municipalities where need exists, and where suitable arrangements can be made with the help and co-operation of the municipality. Under the agreement both the federal Government and the Province would have to be satisfied with the nature of the project whether it takes the form of land assembly, houses for sale, or rental units. All costs of any project developed under this joint arrangement would be a charge against the project. In developing a project each of the two senior Governments would be responsible for those operations which they are best able to handle. The Province would see to the acquisition of the land and make arrangements for services. The Province would receive requests from municipalities and other bodies for public assistance in housing. This meets the wishes of the Provinces and it is appropriate that they should deal directly with their own municipalities.