

(C.W.B. February 25, 1949)

January, three were terminated by January 31. Thus, three strikes were still in effect at the beginning of February.

Based on the number of non-agricultural wage and salary workers in Canada, the time lost in January, 1949, was .01 per cent of the estimated working time as compared with .02 per cent in December, 1948; .17 per cent in January, 1948; and .10 per cent for the year 1948.

22,562 VETS AT UNIVERSITY: Some 22,562 veterans of the Second World War -- three and a half years after the cessation of hostilities -- still are attending Canadian universities to complete their education, according to figures released by the Department of Labour.

Of the total, 2,076 are first-year students; 5,218 second year; 8,007 third year; 6,340 fourth year or subsequent years. Another 1,890 are taking post-graduate courses in Canada, the U.S.A. or abroad.

About 10,000 are registered in arts and science course, 5,000 in engineering, 2,000 in commerce, 1,250 in agriculture, 1,250 in law, 750 in medicine and 425 in dentistry.

MR. SIFTON HONORARY COLONEL: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, addressing the annual meeting of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Association on February 21, announced the appointment of Mr. Victor Sifton, CBE, DSO, as Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Corps.

Mr. Sifton, widely known throughout Canada as president and publisher of the Winnipeg Free Press, has been Honorary Colonel of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps since March 1946. His new and higher appointment is a further tribute to his wartime work as Master-General of the Ordnance and to his continuing interest in ordnance problems today.

Mr. Sifton, who holds the rank of major in the Supplementary Reserve, was commissioned in the 9th Mississauga Horse in October 1914 and served with distinction in France and Belgium, being wounded and awarded the Distinguished Service Order. On August 8, 1940, he was appointed an executive assistant on the staff of the Minister of National Defence, and four months later he became Master-General of the Ordnance, serving in both cases without remuneration. He retained the latter appointment until June 30, 1942, having in the meantime completed the difficult task of reorganizing the branch in order that all sections could adequately meet the vast and increasing requirements of the Canadian Army.

R.M.C. - WEST POINT HOCKEY: Described often in the past as one of the world's most sporting athletic events, the annual hockey series between the Royal Military College of Kingston, and the U.S. Military Academy, West Point,

N.Y., will be resumed on March 12 after a seven-year lapse. This year's game will be played at West Point. As R.M.C. only opened this year, the team must be made up from the 100 cadets who comprise the first-year class.

Despite their youth and inexperience, the cadets from RMC will go all-out to add to the impressive total of Canadian victories since the series was inaugurated in 1923. Only twice have the Pointers claimed victories, in 1939 and again in 1942. The teams battled to a 4-4 tie in 1935.

Proof of the extraordinary tradition of sportsmanship which has always highlighted the series lies in the fact that no player has ever been penalized.

NEW FELLOWSHIPS: A new group of postdoctoral fellowships in the natural sciences is being made available to Canadian men and women with a doctorate degree in chemistry or biology who wish to broaden their fields of investigation and who have demonstrated unusual talent for experimental research. These fellowships are being supported by Merck and Company Limited and the selection of fellows is to be made by the Merck Fellowship Board of the National Research Council of Canada.

Value of the fellowships will range from \$2500 to \$5000 in addition to which a travel allowance may be made when necessary. Fellowships will be tenable in selected institutions in Canada and abroad and it is a requirement that a fellow shall pursue his fellowship work at an institution other than the one from which he secured his doctorate degree. Merck fellowships are open only to citizens of Canada.

Applications must be filed before April 1, 1949. Awards will be made as soon as possible after May 1, 1949. Unless otherwise arranged, tenure will begin on July 1, 1949. Initial appointment will be for one year renewable for a second year and, in exceptional cases, renewable for a third year. A total of six weeks a year will be allowed for vacation.

Applications and requests for information regarding these awards should be addressed to the Merck Fellowship Board, National Research Council of Canada.

MR. SAINT-AMOUR REAPPOINTED: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on February 23 that an Order in Council had been passed approving the action of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada in appointing Mr. Leo Paul Saint-Amour to a third term of office as Assistant Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada. The present appointment, which is for a further period of seven years from February 18, is made by the Board of Directors of the Bank. Under the provisions of the Bank of Canada Act the appointment by the Directors requires the approval of the Governor in Council and this has been given in the Order in Council announced by the Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES HOUSING

ANXIOUS TO ASSIST: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, addressed a luncheon given in his honour by the Mayor and City Council of Toronto on February 19. He discussed federal Government policy in respect of civilian housing. Excerpts from his address are as follows:

"It is not part of the present plans of the federal Government to move from veterans' rental projects into rental housing for civilians....

"The federal Government is anxious to assist substantial residential redevelopment throughout the country. As conditions warrant, we hope that the provisions of the National Housing Act will be widely and progressively used. There are bound to be periods when conditions of employment will make it desirable to push ahead with slum clearance more vigorously than we can do it now, and when urban redevelopment will serve the double purpose of providing better housing and more employment. But you all know that, in present circumstances, one of the great difficulties is a scarcity of labour for building in most parts of Canada.

SOCIAL PROBLEM

"Housing is one of the most pressing of our social problems, and one which must be faced energetically. But, in most of its aspects, housing is a function of property and civil rights, and property and civil rights fall within the jurisdiction of the provincial and municipal governments. Direct participation in housing development by the federal Government is, therefore, limited by our limited constitutional authority. We can, and we do, help to finance housing. But practically, as well as constitutionally, there is much the federal Government cannot do, if we are to respect the dictates of common sense as well as the rights of the provinces.

"Experience in the construction of rental projects for veterans has clearly shown that it is impossible for an agency of the federal Government to engage in housing development without the active support of the municipality in which the housing is being provided and that requires the concurrence of the provincial authorities.

"In some quarters there is the impression that federal activity, through our Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, in the direct construction of houses is a long-term policy. I would like to clarify this impression. Housing for veterans with overseas service is a national responsibility. Many veterans needed rental housing units. Rental housing was in short supply, both because of the growth of the population and the high level of national income. Furthermore, construction of rental

housing during the war was relatively small. The activities of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in the construction of rental housing are designed to provide housing for veterans in places where suitable financial arrangements can be made with municipalities.

"It is not part of the present plans of the federal Government to move from veterans' rental projects into rental housing for civilians. Since housing, by its very nature, is a local matter, it is our view that when public funds are required for houses to be publicly owned, construction and management of such projects should be undertaken locally. I think everyone would agree that, when municipalities participate financially in a housing project, they are more apt to give it the kind of local supervision which is essential for success.

"We feel that the proper policy for the federal Government is one which is limited to extending financial assistance to individuals and corporations, whether home owners or landlords, to provide new housing. The National Housing Act does make mortgage credit readily available to individuals and landlords undertaking to provide rental housing. The ever-increasing use and effectiveness of our housing legislation in the financing of a larger proportion of private building proves its soundness. It is the deliberate policy of the Government to encourage house building by private and local enterprise, so that as much of our housing needs as possible can be provided, without making the National Government the landlord of too many voters.

LOW RENTALS NEED

"That does not mean that we do not recognize the need for housing units at low rents. With today's costs, it must be obvious that low rental housing cannot be provided without some kind of financial assistance. Our legislation provides for slum clearance grants, and also for loans to limited dividend companies for the construction of low rental housing. It may be that experience will show that other forms of federal assistance will be desirable.

"The federal Government has not a closed mind on this question. While we hope that as much of our new housing as possible can be provided through private and local enterprise, we recognize that privately initiated housing may have to be supplemented and stimulated by even further Government support for low rental housing.

"In August, 1945, the federal Government invited the provincial governments to consider co-operation in meeting the problem of low rental housing. So far there has been no agreement between them".