

(C.W.B. December 24, 1953)

**GRAIN, FLOUR MISSION:** Canada's Grain and Flour Mission to Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Southeast Asia will leave Vancouver by air on January 6 for Tokyo.

As announced by the Minister of Trade and Commerce in the House of Commons on November 18, every effort is being made to promote the sale of Canadian grain in foreign markets. To this end, it had been decided to send Mr. William Riddell, Commissioner of The Canadian Wheat Board; Dr. J.A. Anderson, Chief Chemist of the Board of Grain Commissioners; and Mr. G.N. Vogel, Chief of the Grain Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, on a tour of markets in the Far East, and possibly other parts of the world.

The Mission will make a special effort to review the individual requirements of each market. Information gathered by the Mission will assist Canadian exporters in providing grain and flour that will best meet the demands and the taste of consumers in the countries concerned.

After ten days in Japan, members of the Mission will proceed to Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Djakarta, Colombo, Karachi, New Delhi and Bombay, in each of which Canadian trade representatives have already made arrangements for them to meet leading merchants and others interested in the purchase of grain and flour.

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**WHEAT SUPPLIES UP:** Supplies of wheat remaining on or about November 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,813,600,000 bushels, some 26 per cent greater than the 1,435,000,000 available a year ago, according to the November issue of the "Wheat Review" released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Supplies were held as follows, with last year's corresponding figures in brackets: United States, 948,200,000 (759,800,000) bushels; Canada, 738,300,000 (653,700,000); Argentina, 83,400,000 (1,800,000); and Australia, 43,700,000 (19,700,000). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions.

Total exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat in October amounted to 25,700,000 bushels and, with the exception of 1951 and 1952 when exports were moving at exceptionally high levels, were the highest for that month since 1945. This year's October exports of wheat and wheat flour not only exceeded those of September by some six per cent but also surpassed by a small margin the 10-year (1943-44 -- 1952-53) average of 25,200,000 bushels.

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Earnings in manufacturing averaged a record \$58.30 last year, \$4.12 more than in 1951, \$24.05 more than in 1946.

**CANADIAN ARMY, 1953:** Canadian soldiers on three continents looked back today, not without pride, on a year of achievement and self-sacrifice that ranked them, in the opinion of experts, among the world's top professional soldiers, the Department of National Defence announced at the year-end.

On the "achievement" side of the ledger there was the reorganization of the army to include a complete divisional formation; the construction of a new camp for Canadian soldiers near Soest in Germany's Mohnesee Valley; a start on construction of the \$25,000,000 Camp Gagetown development in New Brunswick which will house the 1st Canadian Division; the opening of a \$15,000,000 Ordnance Depot at Cobourg, Ont; and a general pay increase for all ranks.

On the "sacrifice" side, there was the price in lives and suffering paid by Canadian soldiers in Korea -- a price which ended only with the signing of a long-awaited truce in late July. At year's end Canadian troops were guarding a section of the cease-fire line formerly defended by the entire 1st Commonwealth Division.

The Korea conflict cost the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade a total of 1,544 casualties from all causes since the first Canadian soldiers arrived there late in 1950. Of this total 50 gave their lives in the seven-month period preceding the truce. The overall figure includes 256 killed in action, 38 died of wounds, 15 presumed dead, 1,102 wounded in action, 101 injured in action and 32 returned prisoners of war.

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**LABOUR INCOME PEAK:** Canadian labour income passed the billion-dollar level for the first time in September, increasing by \$19,000,000 to an estimated \$1,012,000,000 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported. This was \$81,000,000 or nine per cent above last year's September estimate. Total for the first three quarters of 1953 was \$8,660,000,000, a gain of \$757,000,000 or more than nine per cent over the same nine months of 1952.

All major industrial divisions shared in the August-September advance, the increases ranging from \$1,000,000 in the primary industries group and a similar gain in construction to \$9,000,000 in the finance and service group.

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**HOUSING RECORD:** With further gains in October boosting the 10-month totals above those for the full year, 1952, indications are that 1953 will be a record year for both starts and completions of new residential housing. More than a quarter more new dwelling units were started in the January-October period this year (89,978 against 71,850 in 1952), and nearly a third more were completed (74,516 against 56,295).