

as potatoes, cabbage, onions and carrots are fully adequate for this season of the year and for several months to come.

Moreover, on items of such a basic character, the government will not hesitate to augment the supply if real shortages are being experienced and would do so, in case of real need, either through direct purchase from foreign markets, as was done during the war, or by facilitating import through amendments to the list of goods now prohibited or under quota.

I have too much confidence in the good sense of the Canadian people to believe that these stories of panic buying accurately reflect the general state of the public mind.

On the other hand, I know too, that there is always a small minority seeking to take an advantage at any time when conditions are such as to favor speculative positions.

Consequently, in view of some serious price increases which have recently taken place, I have directed the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to re-impose price ceilings on the more important varieties of canned fruits and vegetables and, as well, to be prepared to re-impose mark-up control on fresh fruits and vegetables and canned fruit juices.

#### GENERAL PRICE CONTROLS NOT INTENDED

It is not the intention of the government to move back toward any general system of price control. The case of basic vegetables, both fresh and canned, is a special one. The whole year's supply has now been produced and a large part has left the hands of the grower and producer. The costs of the year's supply have been established and it would not be fair to either producer or consumer to permit unjustifiable price increases.

As was the case in wartime, the restraint and well-discipline of the public itself is the really effective weapon against the elements which aim at inducing chaotic and disorderly action on our markets.

Government can point the way, but, fundamentally, it is an aroused and enlightened public opinion which will provide the real checks.

Consequently, I ask every consumer not to be misled by stories of coming shortages and not to play into the hands of speculative interests by bidding up prices on every rumour that may be set in motion from time to time.

I repeat - the things that may be scarce in time to come will not be the essentials of life. If there are scarcities, they will be of those things on which we can quite easily reduce our consumption or get along quite well without.

**SCHOOLS FOR INDIANS:** Its schools dotting the map of Canada from Aklavik in the Northwest Territories to Eskasoni in Nova Scotia, the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources is currently educating a total of 19,600 Indian children between the ages of seven and sixteen years.

#### CANALIANS RELEASED BY U.S.S.R.

**RETURN TO BERLIN:** The Department of External Affairs is happy to announce that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, having completed its investigation of the circumstances connected with the illegal crossing by J.D.M. Weld and Captain A.W. Clabon of the Polish-Soviet frontier near Kaliningrad, informed the Canadian Embassy in Moscow, November 23, that Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon had been given permission to leave for Poland. From Poland they will return to Berlin.

The Canadian Government is expressing its appreciation to the Soviet Government for the despatch with which the Soviet Government completed its investigation of this incident.

**REPRESENTATIONS MADE:** The Department issued the following Press announcement in the case on Nov. 21:

The Department of External Affairs confirmed this afternoon that J.D.M. Weld and Captain A.W. Clabon of the Canadian Military Mission in Berlin were being detained by the Soviet authorities pending full enquiry into the circumstances connected with their having illegally crossed the Polish-Soviet frontier near Kaliningrad, the former Koenigsberg in East Prussia.

Weld and Captain Clabon were returning, in Captain Clabon's car, from an authorized visit to Warsaw. They set out from Warsaw on Monday afternoon, November 10, with the intention of returning to Berlin via Danzig and of arriving in Berlin on Wednesday, November 12.

On November 13 the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the Canadian Embassy in Moscow that Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon had been detained on November 12 south west of Kaliningrad for the purpose of ascertaining all the circumstances connected with their presence on Soviet administered territory.

It would therefore appear as if Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon had strayed from their intended route.

John Holmes, the Canadian Charge d'Affaires in Moscow, has, under instructions from the Canadian Government, thanked the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs for drawing this matter so promptly to the attention of the Canadian Government, and has requested that Messrs. Weld and Clabon be permitted by the Soviet authorities to return to Berlin. He has added that it is the desire of the Canadian Government to investigate fully the circumstances leading to the detention of these two Canadian officials. If after study of the matter an illegal crossing of the border or any breach of regulations is established disciplinary action including, if necessary, recall to Canada, will be taken. If it is not immediately possible for Messrs. Weld and Clabon to be returned to Berlin, Mr. Holmes has requested that he might be provided with means of communicating with the Canadian officials and that R.A.J. Phillips, Third Secretary of the Embassy,

be given permission to visit them in person. Mr. Holmes, in his note to the Soviet Minister for Foreign Affairs concluded as follows:

"It is the desire of the Canadian Government to establish as quickly as possible the full facts of this case and to take whatever action the evidence warrants. The Canadian Government feels confident that this view is shared by the Soviet Government and that accordingly the appropriate Soviet authorities will concur in the action which is outlined above."

On November 19, Mr. Holmes received a telegram from Mr. Weld stating that he and Captain Clabon were being held in Pravdinsk (formerly Friedland) by the Commander of the Kaliningrad border area. They had been informed by the Soviet authorities that the visas which had been issued to them by the Soviet Consul in Berlin, and which they understood covered all routes between Berlin and Warsaw, were invalid for that area of the East Prussia. Mr. Weld added that the Soviet Commander was waiting for authorization from Moscow before allowing them to proceed.

Apparently, the enquiry being made by the Soviet Foreign Ministry has not yet been completed to its satisfaction.

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

**HAVANA CONFERENCE OPENS:** Representatives of more than sixty countries, including 51 member states of the United Nations, opened the UN conference on Trade and Employment at Havana, Cuba, Nov. 21. Dana L. Wilgress, Minister of Canada in Switzerland, heads the Canadian delegation (C.W.B. Nov. 21, p. 9). The conference will have the task of giving final consideration to the draft Charter for an International Trade Organization drawn up at the meeting of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva from April to October, 1947.

President Ramon Grau San Martin of the Republic of Cuba, opening the inaugural plenary, welcomed delegates on behalf of the Cuban people and government.

#### DRAFT CHARTER'S PROVISIONS

The draft Charter of the International Trade Organization was introduced formally by Dr. Max Suetens (Belgium) president of the Preparatory Committee. Dr. Suetens said the draft Charter had four distinctive and well-defined objects:

- (1) To give international trade relations, by means of a universally recognized code of rules, the security they require;
- (2) The establishment of an organization, including on the one hand bodies meeting for regular intervals, and, on the other, a permanent administration seeing to it that the rules laid down by the charter were respected and settling any disputes or claims which might arise in international economic rela-

tions, either by mutual agreement or by means of legal proceedings.

In this sphere, among other things, the draft Charter calls for the constitution of an International Trade Organization and establishes its statutes.

- (3) The third objective concerns negotiations for the substantial reduction of tariffs and other charges on imports and exports and to the elimination of preferences. In this connection, Dr. Suetens recalled that the Nations represented on the Preparatory Committee had already begun to put this part of the programme into effect, having concluded, among themselves, some 100 bilateral negotiations affecting thousands of tariff items and involving trade amounting to about ten thousand million dollars.
- (4) Definite cooperative action in all fields governing trade: production, consumption, employment and general economic development, particularly of under-developed countries.

#### SOME CRITICISMS

Dr. Suetens said that successful as had been the work of the Preparatory Committee, it had not been complete. Unanimity could not be reached on a number of points and some questions were left open altogether, the Committee recognizing that only the plenary conference was qualified to settle them, possibly on the basis of alternative proposals submitted on such points by the Committee.

Dr. Suetens then dealt with two specific criticisms that have been levelled at the work of the Preparatory Committee. The first of these deplored the fact that the draft Charter was not comprised of a combination of strict rules, that it contained many exceptions, reservations, and even escape clauses so that it "does not afford any real assurances but only precarious and hazardous guarantees." Dr. Suetens said criticism on this point was "well founded". He pointed, however, to the enormous variety of economic systems and constitutional requirements of the countries involved, saying that this variety could only be reconciled and harmonized by compromise. He expressed the hope that any weakness inherent in the Charter would eventually disappear with the growth of the proposed I.T.O.

A second criticism - that the Charter was "Academic" rather than realistic was rejected by Dr. Suetens as unfounded. In support of his view he pointed to the general tariff agreement whose conclusion, he said, "fully demonstrates what may be expected of the Charter and of those who have signed it."

Dana L. Wilgress, head of the Canadian delegation, was named head of the conference commercial policy Committee.

The Committee of heads of delegations met in closed meeting, Nov. 25. Discussion centred on the organizational work of conference procedure including the proposed structure of