

## SALMON FISHERIES COMMISSION

The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, which is responsible for the preservation, protection and extension of the sockeye and pink-salmon stocks of the Fraser River, met on February 26 with Fisheries Minister J. Angus MacLean.

Under the chairmanship of DeWitt Gilbert, U.S. Commissioner, the Commission reviewed the results of its activities to date, and reported on its continuing work to conserve the two salmon stocks in the area covered by the Convention signed by the two countries.

The Commission was originally appointed in 1937 to restore the sockeye stocks of the Fraser River system. The Convention under which it was set up was amended in 1957 to cover the conservation of pink-salmon stocks in the same area.

Canadian Commissioners attending the meeting were Senator Thomas Reid and Fred D. Mathers, both of New Westminster, British Columbia, and A.J. Whitmore, Pacific Area Director of Fisheries for the Department of Fisheries of Canada. Fisheries Minister MacLean was accompanied by Deputy Minister of Fisheries George R. Clark.

In addition to the other two United States Commissioners, Milo Moore and Arnie Suomela, W.C. Herrington of the U.S. State Department was present.

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## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BULLETIN

The 1959 edition of the bulletin "Workmen's Compensation in Canada", has been released. Mr. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour, announced recently.

The bulletin, prepared by the Legislation Branch, Department of Labour, describes the main features of compensation legislation and sets out in tabulation form, by provinces, the scale of compensation in effect in case of disability from an industrial accident and the benefits to dependants in case of a fatal industrial accident. It also contains a review of the changes in workmen's compensation laws in 1959 up to October, the date of publication.

In Manitoba and Nova Scotia, amendments to the Acts implemented recommendations of Royal Commissions. The changes in Saskatchewan resulted from an inquiry into the Act by a Committee of Review appointed every four years. The Acts of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island were also revised.

The main changes affecting compensation for disability were the increase in Nova Scotia of the percentage rate of earnings on which awards for disability are based from 70 to 75 (making a 75 per cent rate uniform across Canada), and increases in the maximum yearly

earnings base for the computation of compensation to \$3,600 in Nova Scotia, \$4,500 in Manitoba and \$5,000 in British Columbia.

The most significant changes in benefits to dependents in fatal cases were the increases in monthly pensions to widows to \$90 in British Columbia, \$75 in Manitoba and \$60 in Nova Scotia.

Children's allowances were also raised in British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

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## FEBRUARY PRICE INDEX

Canada's consumer price index declined 0.2 per cent from 127.5 to 127.2 between the beginning of January and the beginning of February this year. A year ago the index stood at 125.7.

The current decrease resulted almost entirely from a decline of 0.7 per cent in the food index, combined with a drop of 0.4 per cent in the clothing index and 0.1 per cent in the household-operation index. The indexes for shelter and "other" commodities and services were both up a fractional 0.1 per cent.

The food index moved from 121.6 to 120.8, as lower prices were reported for a wide range of meats, with price declines in beef ranging up to 5¢ a pound. Other price declines were limited largely to orange juice, grapefruit and most fats. Egg prices, after dropping some 20¢ a dozen between November 1959 and January 1960, edged slightly lower in February to stand at 41¢ a dozen. Most fresh and canned fruits and vegetables were higher, with potato prices, continuing to rise, at their highest February levels since 1952.

The shelter index rose slightly from 142.8 to 142.9, as the home-ownership component increased slightly, while the rent component, unchanged for the fourth successive month, continued its levelling trend apparent over the past year.

A drop of 0.4 per cent in the clothing index from 110.2 to 109.8, reflected a further impact of winter sales. Men's, women's and girls' winter overcoats, boys' parkas and girls' snowsuits were mainly affected.

In the household-operation index, a fractional decline from 123.3 to 123.2, resulted mainly from sale prices in furniture and floor coverings, which more than balanced scattered price increases for some household supplies and utensils, as well as textile prices, up from January sale levels.

Price changes in "other" commodities and services were of a minor nature, with somewhat higher prices reported for pharmaceuticals, personal-care items and taxi rates, which were partly offset by price declines for gasoline. As a result, the index increased from 136.9 to 137.0.