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St. Laurent Speaks on South African Question: Rt. Hon. L.S. St. Laurent, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, told a United Nations General Assembly committee that Canada believes India's representations against South Africa should first be referred to the International Court of Justice.

The Indian delegation proposed that the Assembly call upon the South African government to revise its policy in respect of Asiatics in general, and Indians in particular.

Mr. St. Laurent said there appeared to be a preliminary question of jurisdiction. Field Marshall Smuts had taken the position that legislation referred to "concerns matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of South Africa."

The International Court of Justice was "competent to settle authoritatively the various questions involved" and, Mr. St. Laurent said, he did not believe "it can seriously be contended that this joint meeting would be more competent."

"I feel confident that, if the court decides that there exist grievances with which the Assembly is entitled to deal, they will be dealt with as speedily and effectively as if we were to pass at this time a resolution which South Africa might regard as beyond the competence of the Assembly."

Miners Take Strike Vote: Some 13,000 coal miners in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick--District No. 26 of the United Mine Workers of America--are voting today whether they will strike if their officers consider a just settlement of wage demands is not offered during forthcoming negotiations for a new contract.

The miners are asking for a basic hourly rate of \$1, compared with the present 73-cent wage, and a minimum weekly wage of \$40. District president Freeman Jenkins said it was the "earnest hope of every officer of the union and every miner that those who now have authority over such questions will not force us into a strike." (CP)

Massey-Harris Workers Strike: Harry Vandant, secretary of Local 439 of the United Automobile Workers, has announced that 500 assembly-line workers in the Massey-Harris Plant at Toronto have been on strike since Friday in protest against reduction of piece-work rates. He said the new schedule of piece-work rates on assembly of agricultural combines would mean a reduction of 65 per cent in the wages of men in that division.

Meanwhile at Noranda, Que., employees of the Noranda Mines, Ltd., were permitted to pass picket lines to draw their back pay and about 100 maintenance men are keeping smelter fires alive. (CP)

October Strike Figures: In its monthly survey of strikes and lockouts, the Labour Department says 393,296 man-work days were lost through 27 strikes involving 32,919 workers during October. This was a reduction of 200,000 man-work days from the 657,601 lost in September through 33 strikes involving 33,030 workers.

The Department attributed most of the reduction to settlement during the month of 20 major strikes some of which had been in effect for several months. Preliminary figures for the first 10 months of 1946 show 188 strikes, involving 133,317 workers, with a time loss of 4,462,730 man-work days. For the same period last year there were 169 strikes, involving 72,490 workers, with a time loss of 773,128 days.

Former Member Dies: P.A. Seguin, 71, Liberal member of Parliament for l'Assomption from 1908 to 1935, died in a Montreal hospital Sunday after a brief illness. He was joint-clerk of the Quebec Legislative Council.

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