

## ORCHARD SPRAYING FROM THE AIR

**HELICOPTER IN B.C.:** Orchards in British Columbia may soon be sprayed from the air. An Okanagan Valley organization has purchased a helicopter and trials are being made under the supervision of the Dominion Entomological and Chemical Laboratory, Summerland and the Canadian Army Experimental Station, Suffield, Alberta, to assess it as a means of applying insecticides to fruit trees.

The helicopter has several advantages over fixed-wing aircraft. It can travel at much lower speed, although it treats a ten-acre orchard in a few minutes, and can land in a small clearing 50 feet in diameter; the down-draft from the rotors produces a turbulence of "rebound" that improves under-leaf coverage; it is less dangerous to operate in this type of work than a fixed-wing aircraft. Though both dusts and sprays are being applied with the helicopter, it appears probable that sprays will prove more satisfactory.

Officers of the Summerland Laboratory, as well as those of the Provincial Horticultural Branch at Kelowna and Penticton, have also been conducting trials with new types of high-speed ground-borne equipment. These include a turbine blower machine, three types of mist duster-sprayers and a steam aerosol generator. After having been suitably modified all have given satisfactory pest control. The Okanagan Valley investigators plan to build a new machine that will incorporate the best features of the various types so far examined. Perhaps in the not too distant future the high-pressure sprayer with its hand-operated spray guns, standard equipment for orchard pest control since 1910, may be considered obsolete, observe the Entomologists of the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

**ICELANDIC LEGATION ESTABLISHED:** The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, announces the establishment of an Icelandic Legation in Ottawa and the appointment of Mr. Thor Thors as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Iceland in Canada. Mr. Thor Thors is the present Icelandic Minister in the United States and will have dual functions in Washington and Ottawa.

Mr. Thor Thors was born in Reykjavik, Iceland, November 26, 1903. He received a degree in law at the University in Reykjavik, in February 1926, and continued his studies in international law and economics at Cambridge University, England, and at the Sorbonne, in Paris.

From 1928 to 1934, he was managing director of Kveldulfur Limited, shipowners and fishing firm, while from 1934 to 1940, he acted in the same capacity for the Union of Icelandic Fish Producers.

The political career of the new Minister of Iceland to Canada can be summed up as follows: Chairman of the Icelandic Committee to the World's Fair held in New York in 1939; Member of the Icelandic Parliament from 1933 to 1941; Consul General of Iceland in New York from August 1940, until his appointment as Iceland's first Minister to Washington in November 1941, a post he has held since.

Mr. Thors has represented his country at many international meetings, namely, the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, in Hot Springs in 1943; the International Aviation Conference in Chicago in 1944; the International Labour Organization Conference in Montreal in 1946; and the annual meeting of the International Bank and Fund in Savannah, in 1946.

He was Chairman of the Icelandic Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations, in November 1946, and, in August 1947, he was appointed Permanent Delegate of Iceland to the United Nations.

**REPARATIONS SHIP FOR SALE:** S.S. "Empire Gangway", the last of "reparations" vessels allocated to Canada by the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency is offered for sale by tender by the Park Steamship Company Limited, acting as agents for War Assets Corporation. Three German-built ships were awarded to Canada in compensation for losses of Canadian deep sea tonnage by enemy action. Two previously sold by the Park Steamship Company were the motor vessel "Huascarán" and the Steamship "Empire Gatehouse".

This third and last vessel received as reparation, the "Empire Gangway" is now lying afloat at Montreal. She was built by Deutsche Werft A.G. at Hamburg, Germany, in 1944. The approximate particulars are: Length 283.1 feet, Breadth 44.3, Depth moulded to Upper deck 26.9, gross tonnage 1942, net 964, Deadweight 3200, Load draft 18 feet 5½ inches. There are three cargo holds, eight steam driven winches and one steam driven yarning winch. Her speed is 10 knots on approximately 15 tons of coal per day.

The conditions of sale are similar to those which governed the disposal of the M.V. "Huascarán" and the S.S. "Empire Gatehouse". The purchaser is to undertake to operate the S.S. "Empire Gangway" under Canadian registry, and all repairs necessary to put the vessel in class and any reconditioning or converting by the purchaser, to suit his requirements, are to be effected in Canada.

**RANGER COMPANIES AUTHORIZED:** Authority has been granted for the organization of two new Canadian Ranger companies, units of the Reserve Militia, at Dawson City, and Whitehorse, Y.T.

Number 1 Company, with headquarters and one platoon at Dawson, will also have platoons at Mayo, Keno and Selkirk. Number 2 Company will have its headquarters and one platoon at Whitehorse and other platoons at Furwash Landing, Teslin and Carcross.

Canadian Rangers are recruited from the woodsmen, trappers, miners and settlers of Canada's sparsely settled sea coast and north country to carry out such duties as providing guides to troops operating in their areas, preparing local defence schemes, collecting detailed information of their localities likely to be of assistance in war and providing rescue parties for civilian or military purposes. The overall strength of the Rangers is, for the present time, limited to 5000 all ranks located only in areas where Reserve Force units do not exist.

**JAP SWORD, 614 YEARS OLD, GIVEN TO RMC:** Too valuable to beat into a ploughshare, a fine old Japanese saber captured by the Americans has been presented to the Royal Military College at Kingston.

The sword is a Samurai saber made in the Kenmu era, 614 years ago. Its water-tempered steel blade was forged by Kunimitsu, famed Japanese swordmaster of that time.

Last week, General Robert L. Eichelberger, Commanding General 8th U.S. Army, Yokohama, Japan presented the relic to the officers and cadets of R.M.C. during an investiture at the American Embassy in Ottawa. In the absence of General Eichelberger who is still in Japan, the sword was turned over to the College by Colonel R.E.S. Williamson, U.S. Military Attache to the U.S. Embassy in Canada. Lieut.-General Charles Foulkes, C.I., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief of the General Staff, Canadian Army, received the sword for the Commandant, R.M.C.

**NEW RESERVE FORCE UNITS:** The formation of two Intelligence Companies within the Canadian Army, Reserve Force, has been authorized by the Department of National Defence, it was disclosed at Ottawa this week. It will be the first time that units of the Canadian Intelligence Corps have been included in other than active formations of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The two new units will be known as No. 1 and No. 2 Intelligence Companies, C Int C, respectively. The first will be located at Montreal and the second at Toronto.

They have been formed for a nucleus and training ground of field security sections that would be necessary in the event of mobilization:

**DEPARTMENT STORE SALES:** Department store sales in August were four per cent higher than in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This gain was smaller than those recorded in previous months of the year.

## TRADES AND LABOR RESOLUTIONS

**ANNUAL CONVENTION DECISIONS:** Resolutions adopted by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, meeting in annual convention at Hamilton, called for subsidized low-rental housing, national social security, an immigration policy safeguarding Canadian labor, re-imposition of excess profits taxes, increased income tax exemptions and major amendments to the Criminal Code.

On social security, the delegates sought a Dominion-wide contributory scheme for all citizens to include health, accidents and hospitalization benefits, old age pensions, mothers' and widows' allowances and any other necessary measures.

On immigration a national policy was asked embodying these points.

1. That "the quota of immigrants to Canada should be governed by the industrial and agricultural expansion and the prevailing unemployment situation of Canadian citizens".

2. That the Government "discourage colonization of the various nationalities in urban and rural centres and that the acceptance of immigrants into this country be pursued so long as such policy does not adversely affect the welfare of our present Canadian population".

3. No importation of "contract labor under serf conditions", or the making of agreements with immigrants at wages lower than local standards.

A resolution calling on the Federal Government to prevent children under 16 from operating machines in factories was approved over vigorous objection of many delegates who wanted to see the age raised to 18.

Among the subjects debated were sex crimes and the sex criminal, with more than 700 delegates dropping discussion of labor problems to draft a five-point programme aimed at curbing the rising incidence of such crimes.

Government action to provide psychiatric treatment for sex offenders and revision of the criminal code to deal with the sex criminal "on a more realistic basis" were demanded.

In other resolutions the Congress:

1. Sought Federal legislation barring injunctions against legal strikes and prohibiting the use of strikebreakers.

2. Called on the Congress executive to set up a "non-partisan national political or legislative action committee" to work for the election of working-class lawmakers in all public bodies.

3. Urged reinstatement of the excess profits tax at wartime levels. This tax was cut down in the last Federal budget.

4. Referred to the Congress legislative committee a number of resolutions criticizing the British Columbia government's bill No. 39, on strike legislation.

5. Called for all governments to undertake large-scale public works where necessary to combat unemployment. The St. Lawrence seaway was mentioned specifically.