

REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED: Provincial Governments and interested national organizations have been invited by the federal Government to participate in a conference on rehabilitation of the handicapped to be held in Ottawa shortly after the close of the fall session of Parliament, it was announced on October 21 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell. Dates for the conference have not yet been fixed definitely.

Mr. Mitchell explained that during the war, when demands for labour were extremely urgent, handicapped persons proved their value as workers in helping to keep the industrial machine humming, and since the end of the war, the National Employment Service had made special efforts in placing people in this category in suitable employment. A fair measure of success had been achieved, the Minister said, but experience in this placement field had indicated that it was necessary to make available to the civilian handicapped, an effective rehabilitation scheme before a thorough employment job could be done for them. Experience in the re-establishment of the physically handicapped veteran had proven the value of a well organized rehabilitation programme. It was hoped that a national conference would go far towards ironing out any problems which may exist, and clearing the way for such a programme.

The Minister said that much had been done by provincial Governments and organizations outside the Government towards the rehabilitation of those who became handicapped as a result of industrial accidents. Rehabilitation services for the Canadian war casualties had produced excellent results. However, there remained many gaps suggesting the need for an over-all rehabilitation programme.

Mr. Mitchell said that an interdepartmental committee, representing the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as the Department of Labour, was in charge of plans for the conference. Letters of invitation had been sent to all provincial Governments as well as to a dozen or more interested organizations. It was expected that at least 80 delegates would attend.

WOOLLEN TEXTILE INDUSTRIES: The gross value of production of the woollen textile industries of Canada in 1947 amounted to \$125,039,169, showing an increase of \$17,499,916 or 16.3 per cent over the preceding year. There were 206 establishments in operation during the year, providing employment for 18,593 persons as compared with 208 plants with 17,620 employees in 1946. Salaries and wages paid increased 20.3 per cent, amounting to \$29,371,352 as against \$24,418,748, while the cost of materials at \$67,236,086, was up 11.6 per cent over 1946, the Bureau of Statistics reports. Woven suitings, dress goods, overcoatings

and cloakings (wool or containing wool), which together represent the industry's most important item of production, were produced to the extent of 26,022,348 yards in 1947, slightly lower than the 1946 total of 26,243,390 yards. A comparison of the value of the production, however, shows that the 1947 figure of \$53,185,146 is higher than 1946 by \$6,554,428, this increase accounting for 37 per cent of the gain reported for the whole industry. Greater quantities of carpets, mats, rugs and other floor coverings were produced, the value of production being \$8,687,766 compared with \$6,376,236 a year ago. In 1947, the output of felt of all kinds was valued at \$8,889,631, an increase of \$1,398,195 over 1946.

Accompanying the enlarged value of domestic production in 1947 was a notable increase in the imports of raw wool, yarns and warps, piece goods, etc., (excluding wearing apparel), the value of which jumped from \$61,451,933 in 1946 to \$77,923,947 in 1947. Piece goods consisting very largely of worsted and serges with the remainder comprised of flannels, overcoating, tweeds, etc. recorded substantial gains in value during the year. Carpets and rugs increased from 8,416,184 square feet worth \$4,551,160 in 1946 to 14,911,745 square feet worth \$9,032,717 in 1947. The value of raw and unmanufactured wool imported in 1947 amounted to \$30,069,562, slightly above 1946 when imports to the value of \$29,824,538 were recorded. The physical quantity, however, which stood at 52,083,030 pounds in 1947, was 13,329,355 pounds below the 65,412,385 pounds imported a year earlier.

The value of exports continued to decline in 1947, with raw wool, carpets, fabrics, etc. (not including wearing apparel) exported to the extent of \$5,317,000 compared with \$3,772,240 in 1946.

RCAF APPOINTMENTS: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, has announced new appointments for three senior officers of the RCAF. Air Vice Marshal C.R. Dunlap, CBE, now head of the Air Planning Division at Air Force Headquarters, is to assume command of North West Air Command, with headquarters at Edmonton. Air Vice Marshal A.L. James, CBE, at present in charge of the Technical Services Division at AFHC, will take over the headquarters post vacated by AVM Dunlap. The new head of the Technical Services Division at AFHQ will be Air Commodore D.M. Smith, CBE. The changes become effective November 1.

"PROVINCIAL LABOUR STANDARDS": The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced on October 20 that the 1949 revision of the bulletin, Provincial Labour Standards, which had been issued annually by the Legislation Branch of the Department since 1944, was now available.

PROTECT SEALS AS FOOD: Regulations introduced for the first time for the preservation of seals as a food supply for Eskimos in northern Canada have been announced by the federal Department of Fisheries.

Under the regulations no person except a resident shall kill any seals in Canadian waters and territories north of 60° north latitude, and the waters of Ungava Bay, Hudson Bay and James Bay.

The resident, a person residing continuously in the defined area during a period of not less than twelve months, may kill seals for food for himself, his family, and his dogs. The only others authorized to kill seals in the defined area are persons engaged in scientific research.

No person shall sell or otherwise dispose of seal meat to anyone except to travellers or other residents for food for themselves or their families or their dogs.

The regulations do not affect sealing operations outside of the defined area such as those conducted off Canada's east coast, and those on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea, north and west of Alaska.

WHOLESALE SALES UP: Dollar sales of wholesalers moved higher in August, standing 11 per cent above July, and seven per cent in advance of August last year. Cumulative sales for the first eight months of this year were five per cent in excess of sales in the corresponding period last year. The general unadjusted index of sales, on the base, average for 1935-39=100, stood at 316.9 for August, 284.9 for July and 296.7 for August, 1948.

Gains in August over the corresponding month last year were recorded for all regions of the country, ranging from 11 per cent for the Prairie Provinces, through six per cent for British Columbia and Ontario, to four per cent for Quebec, and three per cent for the Maritime Provinces, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

LABOUR INCOME HIGHER: Canadian labour income in July is estimated at \$651,000,000, showing an increase of \$8,000,000 over the preceding month, and a gain of \$44,000,000 or seven per cent over July last year. This raised the cumulative total for the first seven months of this year to \$4,338,000,000 from \$3,963,000,000 in the like period of 1948, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

Labour income in construction showed an increase of \$4,000,000 in the month due to continued high employment in the building and highway construction fields. There were also advances in agriculture, transportation, communications and storage, and services. These increases were of seasonal nature, particularly in agriculture where both the numbers of hired workers and the rates of pay increased. Partly

counterbalancing these gains were losses which occurred in manufacturing and forestry.

Another factor contributing to a higher level of labour income was the decrease in man-days lost through strikes and lockouts. According to preliminary figures of the Department of Labour, 57,744 man-days were lost in July as compared with 141,084 in June. A major strike in the asbestos mining industry was settled, reflecting increased labour income in mining.

N.D. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS: William H. Dumsday, 40-year-old Ontario News Editor of The Canadian Press at the news agency's Toronto headquarters, has been appointed Director of Public Relations for the Department of National Defence, it was announced on October 21 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton. He will assume his new duties here November 1.

RETAIL SALES VALUE: Sales volume of Canada's retail stores was down three per cent in August from July but, at \$645,000,000, was 7.5 per cent higher than a year ago. The margin of gain over last year has been stabilized at between five and eight per cent for the greater part of this year. In the first eight months of 1949, sales reached a total of \$4,859,000,000, seven per cent greater than the 1948 total of \$4,536,000,000 for the same period.

FEWER CATTLE, HORSES, SHEEP: There were fewer cattle, horses, and sheep on Canadian farms on June 1 this year than last, according to estimates by the Bureau of Statistics. Cattle number were down to 9,081,300 from 9,475,900, sheep to 2,075,400 from 2,246,800 and horses to 1,796,200 from 1,904,300. The number of hogs, reported in the Bureau's release of October 9, was 5,162,900 compared with 4,463,100.

A decrease in cattle occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan showing the greatest percentage decline. While the overall decrease in the number of cattle in Canada amounted to about 4.2 per cent, milk cow numbers decreased only 2.2 per cent. There were fewer horses in all provinces than at June 1, 1948, and sheep numbers declined in all provinces except Prince Edward Island.

NORTHERN ROAD BUILDING: The fiscal year ending March 31, 1949, was a busy and highly successful one for Canadian Army engineers employed on the maintenance and improvement of the all-important Northwest Highway System linking British Columbia with the Yukon and Alaska.

Working the year round, frequently in temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero,