

RAILWAY REVENUES AT HIGH: Canadian railways had record operating revenues of \$79,482,000 in September compared with \$66,136,000 in the same month last year, for an increase of \$13,346,000, or 20.2 per cent. This is the highest revenue total for any month in history. With freight volume up 4.6 per cent over September last year and rates increased, freight revenues jumped \$12,588,000 to \$63,399,000, up 24.8 per cent to establish a new peak in this phase of operations. Passenger revenues improved by 3.5 per cent or \$256,000 to \$7,590,000 and compare with \$3,127,000 in September, 1938. All other revenue accounts showed improvement over the same month last year, express increasing by \$317,000, or by 11.9 per cent, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

Operating expenses likewise registered widespread gains over September a year ago, totalling \$69,583,000 as against \$59,100,000, a rise of 17.5 per cent. Maintenance of way and structures and equipment cost some \$30,540,000 during the month, an increase of \$4,985,000 over the same month last year. Transportation expenses were up from \$28,329,000 to \$33,469,000, or by 18.1 per cent. Increased pay rolls affected all departments.

OPERATING REVENUE

Net operating revenue improved nearly \$2,963,000 to \$9,899,000 but taxes increased by \$798,000 in comparison with September, 1947. Hire of equipment and joint facilities rent eased \$43,000. Operating income advanced from \$3,105,000 to \$5,314,000.

During September the Canadian National paid \$17,299,000 in backtime pay covering March 1 - June 30 increases, and the Canadian Pacific issued \$11,786,000 extra to cover retroactive pay for the period, March 1 - July 31. The smaller lines reported \$823,000 retroactive pay.

Revenue freight carried by all railways increased from 14,905,000 tons in September, 1947 to 15,589,000 or by 4.6 per cent, while freight mileage advanced 6.3 per cent. The number of revenue passengers rose by 8,800 to 2,794,000 and the average journey was 111 miles against 109 one year earlier. Average freight receipts per revenue ton mile improved from 1.005 cents to 1.180 cents. Pay roll distributed in the month was \$43,371,000, up \$8,972,000 or 26.1 per cent, and the number of employees was 4.5 per cent greater at 184,000 compared with 176,100.

During the period January to September operating revenues of all railways aggregated \$625,475,000 compared with \$571,474,000 in the first nine months of 1947. However, expenses, including back pay and increased way rates payments, rose over \$80,000,000 in the same comparison, climbing from \$510,310,000 to \$590,993,000, and operating income dropped from \$29,919,000 in 1947 to \$6,461,000.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: There was no change in Canada's official cost-of-living index between October 1 and November 1. This interruption came after a series of 21 consecutive increases dating from January, 1947.

The Bureau of Statistics places the November 1 index at 159.6, unchanged from October 1, but 16.0 points above November 1 last year. From August, 1939 to November this year the increase was 58.3 per cent.

The food index fell from 205.4 on October 1 to 204.7 on November 1 as declines in meats and vegetables overbalanced further increases in egg prices; other food groups showed no appreciable changes. The decline in foods exactly balanced small advances in four other budget groups.

Homefurnishings and services moved up from 165.1 to 166.0 clothing from 181.0 to 181.5, fuel and light from 128.8 to 129.0, and miscellaneous items from 124.4 to 124.6. The rent series is computed at approximately quarterly intervals and the next reckoning will be for December 1; the latest figure is 121.0

BEER PRODUCTION LOWER: Beer production was slightly lower in October, the month's output amounting to 15,360,000 gallons as compared with 15,990,000 in the preceding month and 15,620,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. During the first 10 months of this year, 152,690,000 gallons were produced compared with 143,670,000 in the similar period last year.

New spirits produced during the month amounted to 1,650,000 proof gallons compared with 1,540,000 in September and 2,360,000 a year ago, while spirits bottled -- including imported liquors -- totalled 750,000 proof gallons compared with 680,000 in September and 850,000 last year.

Stocks of distilled liquor at the end of October amounted to 68,840,000 proof gallons compared with 68,950,000 at the end of September and 59,800,000 a year ago.

FEWER CIGARETTES: Fewer cigarettes were released for consumption in October, the month's figure standing at 1,429,000,000 as compared with 1,481,000,000 in the preceding month and 1,524,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Releases during the first 10 months of this year totalled 13,013,000,000 as compared with 12,450,000,000 in the corresponding period last year.

Cigar releases were also lower during the month, totalling 17,900,000 as against 18,000,000 in September and 21,200,000 a year ago. Cut tobacco releases at 2,301,000 pounds were down from 2,417,000 in September and 2,499,000 a year ago, while plug tobacco at 199,000

pounds increased from 185,000 pounds in September, but fell from the October, 1947 total of 259,000 pounds.

CAR LOADINGS: Car loadings of railway revenue freight during the week ended November 27 declined to 85,320 cars from 86,961 cars for the preceding week and 85,522 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative loadings for the 48 weeks ending November 27 amounted to 1,762,107 cars as against 1,772,288 in 1947 and 1,659,176 in 1946.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on November 25 amounted to 180,142,000 bushels, up 31,944,000 bushels over last year's corresponding figure of 148,198,000 bushels, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week totalled 4,413,000 bushels as against 3,681,000 in the same week last year, while clearances for export amounted to 4,765,000 bushels compared with 3,505,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: There was an increase in the number of claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed in October. Total for the month was 43,620 as against 34,743 in the corresponding month last year, advances being shown for all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta. At the end of the month there were 55,384 ordinary claims on the live unemployment register compared with 42,225 on the same date last year.

A total of 50,454 beneficiaries received one or more benefit payments during October, amounting to \$1,763,559 as compensation for 878,430 compensated unemployed days compared with 49,372 beneficiaries paid \$1,694,139 for 871,967 compensated unemployed days in September and 41,033 beneficiaries paid \$1,544,185 for 814,218 compensated unemployed days during October, 1947.

MOUNT NORQUAY CHAIRLIFT: The Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. MacKinnon, will officially open the new chairlift on the east slope of Mount Norquay in Banff National Park, Alberta, during the last week in December, it was announced December 3. It is the first chairlift to be built in the Canadian Rockies and is similar to equipment used at many winter sport centres in the United States, Europe and in eastern Canada.

The Mount Norquay chairlift has a length of 3,200 feet and a vertical rise of 1,300 feet. There are 59 chairs and about seven minutes is required to make the trip from the lower terminal to the upper. Trial runs have been completed and the lift will begin operations on December 19.

The slopes of Mount Norquay have always been popular with skiers and this new equipment will further stimulate interest in skiing in Banff National Park. The Canadian, Western, and Intercollegiate ski meets are held there, and it is a favourite centre for skiers attending the Annual Banff Winter Carnival.

CARIBBEAN AIR SERVICES: On the occasion of the inauguration by the Trans-Canada Air Lines of its Caribbean Air Services, the following letters were exchanged by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, and Sir John Valentine Wistar Shaw, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago:

His Excellency
Sir John Valentine Wistar Shaw, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Trinidad and Tobago,
Trinidad, B.W.I.

Dear Sir John:

I have pleasure in sending you greetings on the occasion of the establishment by Trans-Canada Air Lines of direct air communication between Canada and Trinidad.

I hope that this development in mail and passenger services will do much to bring still closer the relations between this country and Trinidad.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) L. S. St. Laurent.

The Right Honourable
Louis St. Laurent, P.C., LL.D., K.C.,
Prime Minister of Canada.

My dear Prime Minister:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of November 22 sending me greetings on the occasion of the establishment by Trans-Canada Air Lines of direct air communication between Canada and Trinidad.

Small islands like Trinidad are even more dependent than large continental countries on frequent, swift and reliable overseas communications both by air and sea. Our commercial, cultural and social relations with the great Dominion of Canada are already close and cordial. I share your view, Sir, that this development of mail and passenger services by a Canadian Air Line will bring these relations closer still; and I warmly welcome the inauguration of the service.

It was a pleasure to meet the distinguished company of Ministers, officials and business men who came down on the initial flight: our only regret is that their visit was so short.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J. V. W. Shaw.