

**JOINT DEFENCE PRODUCTION TALKS.** During the course of his visit to Ottawa, the United Kingdom Minister of Supply (the Rt. Hon. Duncan Sandys) has had talks with Canadian Ministers concerned with defence. He also met the Canadian Chiefs of Staff and Dr. Solandt (Chairman of the Defence Research Board).

These talks provided an opportunity for a general exchange of views on defence matters affecting the two countries, with special reference to the problem of defence production and of aeronautical and weapon research. Among other subjects the Ministers discussed the supply of equipment required by Canada from the United Kingdom.

The arrangements for co-operation in scientific and technical development were reviewed, and methods for securing a still closer integration of the defence research programmes of the two countries were discussed, with particular reference to aircraft and air-to-air guided weapons.

The Ministers also reviewed the progress made in regard to the standardization of weapons and equipment. In this connection they discussed the question of the Belgium F.N. automatic rifle, which the United Kingdom Government has decided to manufacture in Britain for the British Army.

Whilst the Canadian Government has not as yet reached any final decision, the adoption of this rifle for the Canadian forces is being actively considered and some two thousand of these weapons have been ordered for troop trials.

Should the Canadian Government adopt this weapon, it would propose to manufacture it in Canada. This would necessitate converting the design to inch dimensions, since the Belgian production drawings, which are based on the metric system, are not suited to manufacturing methods and tooling in North America.

The Canadian Government has agreed to undertake the actual work of adapting the production drawings to the inch system in accordance with accepted American-British-Canadian standards. This work will be carried out at Canadian Arsenals at Toronto. The closest collaboration will be maintained throughout with the United Kingdom Ministry of Supply who will be represented at Canadian Arsenals by design and production experts.

The United States Government has been invited to appoint observers to maintain technical liaison in connection with this work.

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Ordinary and supplementary benefit claimants on the live unemployment insurance register on February 26 numbered 512,567, up from 494,831 a month earlier, and 363,165 at the same time last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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Dairy products brought farmers \$413,127,000 last year.

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS CONFERENCE:** The Federal-Provincial Conference on the control and regulation of interprovincial and international highway transport concluded its deliberations at noon on April 28, 1954.

This Conference which was called by the Minister of Transport for the purpose of considering ways and means by which the provinces might assume control of that part of the nation's highway transport which the recent decision of the Privy Council found to be within Federal jurisdiction has been in session for the past two days.

The Conference dealt in the main with two questions. Firstly, whether or not there was a disposition on the part of the provinces to assume control over interprovincial and international highway transport in view of the reluctance of the Federal Government to enter this field. All nine provinces (Newfoundland not being represented at the Conference) expressed their willingness to assume this control.

Secondly, there was the question of the method by which the provinces might be enabled to assume control over interprovincial and international highway transport. Two possibilities were discussed: an amendment to the British North America Act which would give the Provinces complete jurisdiction, and Federal legislation which would give the provinces control over extra-provincial highway transport. The latter alternative was considered to be the more feasible method, having regard to the many various problems involved in obtaining amendment to the constitution.

The Legal Committee of the Conference submitted a draft Bill which would transfer to the provinces the right to control and regulate interprovincial and international highway transport. The majority of the provincial representatives indicated their approval of the draft Bill and all undertook to present the proposed measure to their governments for early consideration.

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**RECRUITING ADS AWARD:** Recruiting advertisements sponsored by the Department of National Defence in the past few months have won a merit award from the National Advertising Agency Network, an American cooperative network of independent advertising agencies.

A letter addressed to the Department of National Defence and signed by Oakleigh R. French, managing director of the NAA, states that the Department has been awarded an award of merit in the 1954 creative awards competition sponsored by the association.

The Defence Department's award winning entry was prepared by Ronalds Advertising Agency, Ltd., Montreal.

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Telephone calls from Canada to Asia numbered 404 in 1952, some 160 or 66% more than in the preceding year.