

**WHEAT MARKETS:** Total exports of Canadian wheat flour in terms of wheat during November, 1953 amounted to 24,400,000 bushels and, although considerably below the high November, 1952 exports of 43,700,000 bushels, were relatively unchanged from those of October, and compare favourably with the 1943-44--1952-53 November average of 28,300,000.

Exports of wheat as grain in November totalled 20,400,000 bushels, a decrease of nine per cent from those of the previous month. Total exports of wheat as grain during the August-November period of the present crop year amounted to 88,300,000 bushels as against 118,200,000 for the same period of 1952-53.

The United Kingdom received some 29,300,000 bushels, or about one-third of this year's exports during the four months ending November. Other major markets for Canadian wheat during the period were as follows: Japan, 15,900,000 bushels; the Federal Republic of Germany, 8,200,000; Belgium, 5,800,000; India, 4,300,000; Switzerland, 4,000,000; Spain, 3,400,000; United States, 2,600,000 (of which 1,200,000 bushels were for milling in bond); the Netherlands, 2,400,000; Union of South Africa, 2,200,000; Ireland, 1,600,000; Israel, 1,500,000; and Peru, 1,100,000.

\* \* \* \*

**SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION:** The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced in Paris on behalf of NATO on December 5, 1953, the agreement to adopt the new 7.62 mm (.30 calibre) cartridge as the standard small arms round. In consequence of this agreement, a meeting of technical small arms experts has been arranged to take place in Ottawa on January 25, 1954. The representatives of Belgium, France, United Kingdom, United States and Canada will attend the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that technical specifications, tolerances and minimum performance characteristics are agreed and embodied in a clear statement of specifications before manufacture of the new round is started in the NATO countries concerned.

\* \* \* \*

**AIR FORCE CONFERENCE:** Top ranking officers from across Canada, Metz and Paris, France, London, Eng., and Washington, D.C., gathered in Ottawa on January 13 for a two-day conference on all aspects of Air Force business, the RCAF announced January 13. Under the chairmanship of the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshall C.R. Slemon, the group reviewed RCAF plans for the coming year and discussed the major problems associated with these plans.

\* \* \* \*

Retail sales in the third quarter of 1953 showed a 6.8% gain in cash purchases over 1952, drops of 2.5% for charge and 5.1% for instalment buying.

**SUCCESS AGAINST T.B.:** The fewest deaths, the lowest death rate and the widest use of new drug treatments in any year highlighted record 1952 strides against a disease that has killed 164,777 Canadians since 1925, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its latest issue of Tuberculosis Institutions.

Institutional and non-institutional deaths from all forms of tuberculosis tumbled 26 per cent from 3,291 in 1951 to 2,457 in 1952, the sharpest drop ever recorded. The new low represented a decline of 56 per cent from the 5,811 deaths of 1946, 66 per cent from the 7,164 of 1932 and 70 per cent from the 8,116 of 1926.

The T.B. death rate per hundred thousand Canadians also made the sharpest drop in its history in 1952, plunging 30 per cent to register below 20 for the first time.

\* \* \* \*

**LABOUR INCOME:** Canadian labour income in October amounted to an estimated \$1,009,000,000, a small decline from the preceding month's \$1,012,000,000, but a rise of 6.7 per cent over 1952's October total of \$946,000,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This brought the cumulative total for the January-October period to \$9,669,000,000, a gain of 9.3 per cent over the preceding year's comparable figure of \$8,849,000,000.

A decline of \$5,000,000 in total wages and salaries for manufacturing was the most important contributory factor to the down-turn in labour income as compared with September. The loss was distributed among such component groups as food and beverages, textile products and clothing, saw and planing mills and motor vehicles. There was also a reduction of \$3,000,000 in the total for the primary industry group with agriculture and fishing totals seasonally lower, and the seasonal increase for logging less than a year ago.

\* \* \* \*

**SNOWMOBILE DASH:** A small party of Canadian Army Signallers travelling in Penguin snowmobiles recently completed a 917-mile dash over the Northwest (Alaska) Highway from Dawson Creek, B.C., to Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, in 66 hours actual travelling time, Army Headquarters has announced.

No effort was made to break or set any speed records. Object of the move, Army Headquarters said, was to get the convoy of five snowmobiles to Silver Creek, Y.T., in time for Exercise "Hotdog" later this month and to ascertain the feasibility of moving the tracked vehicles in winter over long distances by road.

\* \* \* \*

Natural increase in population was at the record rate of 19.2 per thousand Canadians in 1952, up from 18.2 in 1951, 10.8 in 1936-40 and 12.9 in 1926-30