

UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

CRITICAL MINERAL SHORTAGES: Following is an excerpt from the address of Dr. H.L. Keenleyside, Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources, at a plenary session of the U.N. Scientific Conference on the conservation and utilization of resources, on August 18:

"...our knowledge of the world's supply of mineral products is so meagre and so unreliable as to make it impossible to forecast with any assurance even an approximate date at which we will be faced with a critical shortage of any specific item.

"It is clear, as I have already stated, that there is no serious and immediate overall and irreplaceable shortage of any essential mineral. But it is equally clear that the demand for mineral products is increasing at such a rate that unless there is a fundamental change in the economic fabric of human society we will ultimately be faced with the exhaustion of many of our mineral reserves. In some cases, particularly lead, cobalt and copper, and probably also iron and oil, the supply will be exhausted more rapidly than in others. New discoveries, improved methods of extraction and processing, and careful conservation will postpone the advent of critical mineral shortages. Substitution may provide alternate solutions.

ALTERNATIVES POSSIBLE

"When shortages do develop, they may not be critical because alternatives may be available. But this is a hope not a promise. In the meantime the practices which have used or squandered our mineral resources in the past still continue and consumption is rising at a rate that can only be described as alarming. The situation that is thus developing will make heavy demands on human intelligence and good will. Since no one nation has been endowed with all its mineral requirements, the problem crosses every national boundary. The discovery of solutions is a matter of universal concern.

"The experience of the two world wars has shown the folly of wasting our irreplaceable mineral supplies in barren struggles that, apart entirely from the moral and social degradation which they produce, end only in general impoverishment and the permanent depletion of our resources. Further conflicts of this kind will hasten the day when real shortages in our reserves will develop. They may leave us too little time.

"Because the problem is a world problem, the search for solutions should be on a world basis. That search can be made infinitely more productive if it is based on an increased appreciation of the necessity for scientific research in this field. There must be co-operation in the exchange of technical and industrial knowledge. Above all, there must be peace. Given these conditions we can refuse to

admit that any material problem is beyond the ultimate competence of mankind...."

CANADIANS PRESIDE: Word has been received from Lake Success that Canadians have been invited to preside over three sessions of the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources which opens August 17, it is announced by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

H.L. Keenleyside, who heads the Canadian Delegation, presided at the plenary session, August 18, on "World Resources - A Review of Critical Shortages."

Dr. G.C. Monture, Chief, Mineral Resources Division, Bureau of Mines, will head one of the eight Section meetings to be held on minerals, and P.E. Cavanagh, Assistant Director, Department of Engineering and Metallurgy, Ontario Research Foundation, will preside at a Session of the Fuels and Energy Commission.

Section meetings will be devoted to specific world problems in the field of minerals, forest products, water-power, land resources, fish and marine resources, fuels and energy.

U.N.S.C.C.U.R. marks a new departure for the United Nations. A pioneer among world conferences, it will be unique in the range of sciences and technology that its discussions are scheduled to cover. Fifty-five countries will send some five hundred experts to exchange ideas and methods in an attempt to plan wiser uses and wider distribution of the world's vital natural resources. Contributing skill and experience will be engineers, scientists, economists, botanists, geologists, water-power experts and resource administrators.

Members of the official Canadian Delegation are as follows:

Dr. H.L. Keenleyside, Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources, and Commissioner of the Northwest Territories;

Dr. G.S.H. Barton, Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture;

Dr. A.L. Pritchard, Director, Fish Culture Development, Department of Fisheries;

H.D. Fisher, Fisheries Research Board, Department of Fisheries;

Dr. G.C. Monture, Chief, Mineral Resources Division, Department of Mines and Resources;

A. Ignatieff, Fuels Division, Bureau of Mines, Department of Mines and Resources;

George Tunstall, Dominion Forest Service, Department of Mines and Resources

I.R. Strome, Dominion Water and Power Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources.

During the Conference papers will also be presented by representatives of the National Research Council, the Ontario Research Foundation, and Canadian Universities and Industries.

RECORD AUTO SALES: Both factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles and sales of new motor vehicles reached new high postwar levels for the period during the first half of this year.

With June figures setting a new record for a month, factory shipments by Canadian manufacturers during the six months aggregated 140,115 units compared with 129,182 units in the corresponding period last year and with 126,215 units in 1947, according to the Bureau of Statistics. June shipments totalled 30,096 units compared with 26,708 in May, 23,362 in June last year, and the previous month's peak of 27,305 units last December.

Of the half-year's total shipments, 125,262 units were for sale in Canada and the remainder for export, while 27,183 of the June shipments -- a slightly higher proportion -- were for sale in Canada and 2,913 for export.

Passenger cars accounted for 87,470 of the total units shipped in the half-year, 79,966 being for sale in Canada and 7,504 for export. Of the June shipments, 20,008 were passenger cars and 18,698 of those were for domestic sale and 1,310 were shipped for sale abroad. Commercial vehicles shipped in the half-year totalled 52,645 units, of which 45,296 were for sale in Canada and 7,349 for export; while 8,485 out of 10,088 units shipped in June were for domestic sale and 1,603 for export.

Sales of new automobiles during the first half of this year rose to 132,780 vehicles sold for \$280,133,731 as compared with 107,534 units retailed for \$212,011,081 in the corresponding period last year, an increase of 24 per cent in number and 32 per cent in value. Most of this increase was in sales of passenger cars, which showed a gain of 33 per cent in number and 44 per cent in dollar volume with 88,469 sold for \$184,462,951 as against 66,502 sold for \$127,834,859 in the January-June period of 1948.

In the truck field, increases in the half-year were more moderate, 43,922 units being sold for \$88,186,811 as against 40,651 retailed for \$77,590,526, making gains of eight per cent in number and 14 per cent in value. Buses sold numbered 389 as against 381 last year, the retailed value showing a sharper increase at \$7,483,969 as compared with \$6,585,696.

During June a total of 26,738 vehicles were sold for \$55,539,165, an advance of 24 per cent in number and 28 per cent in value over the 21,626 vehicles sold for \$43,430,979 in June last year.

MARINE WEATHER SERVICE: Stepping up of meteorological forecasting service designed to improve aids to navigation on the St. Lawrence River will be put into operation effective August 15, it is announced by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier.

This new regular weather forecast service will be an extension of existing marine weather services and completes the establishment of

forecasts for all shipping lanes in Eastern Canada.

In making the announcement, the Minister stated that this new forecast service makes available marine weather forecasts to shipping from Lake Superior over the whole St. Lawrence waterway system and around the Maritimes, Newfoundland and Labrador Coast. He pointed out also that during the summertime navigation season, marine forecasts are provided for the Hudson Bay route.

A breakdown of the new services has been provided by Andrew Thomson, Controller, Meteorological Division of the Department of Transport, who states that the new forecasts will cover the St. Lawrence River water areas from Gananoque to Father Point. These join up with the existing services for the Great Lakes and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

CANADA SAVINGS BONDS: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on August 12 that a Fourth series of Canada Savings Bonds will be offered to the public this fall. At the same time the Minister gave notice that Canada Savings Bonds, Series Three, will be withdrawn from sale on August 31. Applications made before August 31, with arrangements for deferred payment, are not affected.

Decision to issue a Fourth Series of Canada Savings Bonds is a direct reflection of the enthusiastic response that has attended the previous three offerings. Since the introduction of this unique savings instrument in 1946, Canadians have made more than three million purchases of Canada Savings Bonds, representing a total value in excess of \$1 billion. Last year, purchases on the Payroll Savings Plan reached a new high of \$118 million. The number of industrial and commercial establishments offering the Payroll Plan to employees also reached an all-time high and more than 43% of all employees to whom the Payroll Plan was made available bought bonds.

Although terms of the new issue have not yet been announced, it is expected that the Fourth Series will retain the features which proved so popular in the first three. As in the past, the bonds will be available through banks and investment dealers as well as on the Payroll Savings Plan.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING: Activity in residential building construction in Canada was stepped up in the first five months of this year, completions and starts both showing substantial gains over the same period last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

There were 32,451 dwelling units completed in the period compared with 24,582 in the like period of 1948, a gain of nearly one-third; starts numbered 29,671 compared with 26,359; and the estimated number under construction at the end of May was 53,533 as