

**World Wholesale Prices:** Wholesale prices continued to move upward in many countries during the second half of 1948, although peak levels in others appears to have been reached or passed, according to the semi-annual report on world price movements by the Bureau of Statistics. Buyer's markets were developing in some of the major cereal products, and supply conditions eased also in a few other commodities such as rubber, tea, coffee and spices, towards the end of the year. Currency difficulties continued to have an adverse effect upon demand for commodities important in international trade.

Declines in cost-of-living series ranging from 0.2 per cent to 1.3 per cent were shown by the United States, the United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia and Norway. The United States index of the Bureau of Labour Statistics recorded a decrease in October, and continued downward, showing a net decline for the six months of 0.2 per cent. In the United Kingdom, the cost-of-living index showed a drop for July. Part of the loss was regained later, but the December level was 0.9 per cent below the June peak.

Cost-of-living advances for other countries, in many instances, were at less than half the rate shown for the second half of 1947. Increases, with a few exceptions, ranged within the limits of one per cent and four per cent.

The United States Bureau of Labour general wholesale index touched a post-war peak of 169.5 for August, but receded to 162.3 for December, to show a net decrease from June to December of 2.3 per cent. The Board of Trade wholesale price index for the United Kingdom averaged 0.6 per cent lower in December than in June, although still 8.5 per cent above December, 1947. The Canadian wholesale price index reached 159.7 for November, the highest level since August, 1920. This appeared to mark a turning point. The wholesale price index for Australia advanced seven per cent between June and December.

**All-Canada Conference:** Attended by representatives of the provincial departments of the Attorneys General and the provincial departments of Health and Public Welfare, a two-day federal-provincial Conference on Criminal Statistics held its first session on May 19 at Ottawa. The Conference was opened by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Mackenzie.

**Tobacco Acreage Up:** Acreage planted to tobacco in Canada this year is estimated to be seven per cent greater than in 1948, amounting to 117,930 acres as compared with 110,590, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

**Across Canada:** Dr. P.E. Moore, head of the Department of National Health and Welfare's Indian Services Branch, reported to the Northwest Territories Council yesterday that the influenza epidemic which recently killed 18 Eskimos at Cambridge Bay, on Victoria Island, inside the Arctic Circle, is apparently the same deadly virus which swept the world 30 years ago.... Talks aimed at settlement of Quebec Province's strike of 5,000 asbestos workers continued in Quebec City; without any official announcement as to results.... Appointment of Professor Charles E. Smalley-Baker as Dean of Osgoode Hall was announced from Toronto yesterday. The foregoing items are reported by the Canadian Press.