

of the army, Gen. Crerar was closely associated with the Intelligence Corps and placed great reliance on its work and efficiency for ultimate victory. It was the first time in war that these exacting duties had been performed for a Canadian commander by a purely Canadian intelligence arm, and it was not found wanting.

SWEDISH AIR CHIEF: At the personal invitation of Air Marshal W.A. Curtis, Chief of the Air Staff, RCAF, Lieutenant General Bengt Nordenskiöld, Commander-in-Chief of the Swedish Air Force arrived in Montreal, Saturday afternoon, February 26, for a brief visit to Canada. Air Marshal Curtis visited the Royal Swedish Air Force in April 1948. Accompanying the Swedish Air Chief is Lt. Colonel D.H. von Schinkel, and Group Captain H.G. Richards, Canadian Air Attaché to Sweden.

The Swedish Air Force in Europe is considered second only to the Royal Air Force in strength and efficiency. Lt. General Nordenskiöld is particularly interested in winter operations of jet propelled Vampires, as the Swedish Air Force is equipped with this type of aircraft and their winter conditions are similar to those in Canada. He is also interested in Canadian methods of personnel selection and of personality and aptitude analysis.

HIS MAJESTY'S THANKS: The Royal Canadian Army Chaplain Service (Protestant) has received a letter from Sandringham, England, expressing the King's pleasure in accepting a copy of a history of the Service, forwarded to him earlier this month.

The book, "In This Sign", written by H/Major Walter T. Steven of Toronto, is an account of the part played by Protestant Chaplains with the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War.

"The King is very glad to receive this record of the service given by the Canadian Army Chaplain Service (Protestant) in the late war," the letter states in part.

CRUDE PETROLEUM RECORD: Canadian production of crude petroleum reached an all-time record total in 1948, due in the main to the striking developments in the Leduc field of Alberta -- now Canada's premier producing area. Output from the Lloydminster field also rose sharply, more than doubling during the year, while production from the Turner Valley -- hitherto Canada's main domestic source -- was moderately lower.

According to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics, the year's output of crude petroleum aggregated 12,368,042 barrels, an increase of 60 per cent over the preceding year. December's output was 1,247,565 barrels, only slightly under the record

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monthly total of 1,264,988 barrels for November, but sharply higher than the December, 1947 figure of 766,309 barrels.

Alberta accounted for 10,973,583 barrels in 1948 compared with 6,809,284 in the preceding year. Leduc's output rose sharply to 4,657,371 barrels from 363,363, Lloydminster to 648,055 barrels from 304,707, and Princess to 187,084 barrels from 106,950. Crude output from Turner Valley fell to 4,428,688 barrels from 5,022,350, Conrac to 182,255 barrels from 202,458, and Vermilion to 112,331 barrels from 138,401.

The year's output in Saskatchewan amounted to 847,095 barrels against 534,894 in 1947, Northwest Territories 349,768 barrels compared with 231,844, Ontario 176,225 barrels compared with 130,135, and New Brunswick 21,371 barrels compared with 23,128.

DR. BARTON'S APPOINTMENT: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, on February 28, announced the appointments of Dr. G.S.H. Barton, C.M.G., Deputy Minister of Agriculture since 1932, as Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture; and Mr. James Gordon Taggart, C.B.E., hitherto Director-in-Chief of Agricultural Services in the Department of Agriculture, and Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Support Board, as Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

In his new position, Dr. Barton will deal with international phases of agricultural development and will represent Canada abroad at conferences and on international organizations, the Prime Minister said.

"Dr. Barton's new appointment reflects Canada's great interest in international food and trade problems," Mr. St. Laurent added. "It is also a recognition of Dr. Barton's wealth of experience gained through work on such organizations as the Combined Food Board, the International Emergency Food Council, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations."

HIGH REPUTATION

"Dr. Barton enjoys a high reputation for his wide knowledge of all phases of agriculture and for his practical approach to the world food problems. In the early years of the war, he was the Minister of Agriculture's representative on the Combined Food Board, which was charged with allocation of food, fibre and fertilizer to the Allied Nations. Later, he represented Canada on the International Emergency Food Council which performed the same functions as the Combined Food Board on a larger scale.

"It is, however, with the Food and Agriculture Organization that Dr. Barton is particularly identified. Not only had he much to do with the shaping of its policies at the preliminary conference at Hot Springs, Va., in 1943, and at later conferences, but he has also

served with distinction on the F.A.O. Council and headed its Finance Committee.

"Dr. Barton's service to Canadian agriculture is well known. His seventeen-year term as Deputy Minister saw agriculture pass through the depression and the drought of the "thirties". It saw Canadian farmers called upon to help meet the food and fibre needs of a world at war. In both emergencies, Dr. Barton not only carried a heavy burden himself, but gave sound and courageous leadership. His new appointment promises much for Canada and even more for the success of the various organizations that are engaged in planning for a freer exchange of foods and a better-nourished world.

"Like Dr. Barton, Mr. Taggart has a wide knowledge of Canadian agriculture and its problems, both east and west. Born on a farm near Parrsboro, N.S.; and a graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, he always had first hand knowledge of the problems of Maritime farmers. Ontario was his next field of activity where, following graduation from the Ontario Agricultural College, he worked for some time with the agricultural representative service in various parts of the province. A considerable time spent in Western Canada, first with the Alberta Department of Agriculture, then as Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station at Swift Current, and from 1934-44 as Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, was yet another phase in a career that has given him a unique opportunity of working with farmers and farm organizations throughout Canada and learning their problems.

"Mr. Taggart is no stranger to Ottawa. At the outbreak of war he was appointed Chairman of the Meat Board. From 1941 to 1943 he was Foods Administrator of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Since its establishment in the closing years of the war he has been Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Support Board.

"Mr. Taggart's reputation for sound judgment, fair dealing and administrative ability stands as high with farmers and their organizations as it does with the Dominion and Provincial officials with whom he will be dealing in his new work."

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX: Wholesale prices in Canada showed a further slight decline in January, according to the general wholesale index compiled by the Bureau of Statistics. The decline in the index during the month was 0.2 per cent, identical to that shown in December. At this year's January level the index was 12.4 points above January last year.

The index for January, on the base 1926=100, stood at 159.3 as compared with 159.5 in December, 159.7 in November, and 146.9 in January last year. As compared with the preceding month, a drop of three points in the index for animal products, and 0.9 points for both vegetables and wood products, more than counterbalanced increases for the remaining five groups.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: Industrial employment showed a pronounced seasonal decline between December 1 and January 1, the losses in construction and manufacturing being particularly noteworthy. Reduced industrial activity was indicated in all provinces, reports the Bureau of Statistics.

The advance index number of employment in the major industrial divisions stood at 197.3 as compared with 204.3 at December 1, a decline of 3.4 per cent. The decrease exceeded that indicated at January 1, 1948, but the index number was then 1.9 per cent below the latest figure, which was the highest in the record for the time of year.

The losses from December 1 ranged from 1.8 per cent in Ontario and 2.7 per cent in Alberta, to 5.2 per cent in Saskatchewan and 6.2 per cent in British Columbia, where unfavourable weather was an important factor. The index numbers of employment in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta were higher than at January 1 last year, but those in the remaining provinces were lower. Except in New Brunswick, the declines were slight. In that province there was a reduction of 5.8 per cent.

LOWER BY 6.1 PER CENT

The reported salaries and wages were lower by 6.1 per cent in the holiday week of January 1 as compared with the week of December 1. As compared with January 1, 1948, however, there was a gain of 15.2 per cent in the index number of weekly payrolls. The advance figure of average weekly earnings in the eight major industrial groups at the beginning of January was \$41.03 as compared with the all-time high of \$42.23 indicated a month earlier, and \$36.28 a year ago.

The advance index of employment in manufacturing was 202.8, a decline of 2.4 per cent from the December 1 index of 207.9. The figure at the beginning of January last year was 199.9. The disbursements in weekly salaries and wages in the larger manufacturing establishments showed a reduction usual in the holiday week, falling by 5.6 per cent as compared with December 1. The index number of payrolls, however, was 18.1 per cent higher than at January 1, 1948. Earnings of persons employed by the larger manufacturing establishments at January 1 averaged \$42.32 as compared with \$43.71 at December 1, and \$36.31 at January 1, 1948.

CARLOADINGS: Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended February 19 amounted to 70,358 cars as compared with 71,945 cars for the preceding week and 68,817 cars for the corresponding week last year. Grain, coal, other mine products and pulpwood showed the largest decreases from the week of February 12, while grain, coal, pulpwood and gasoline and oils were the main factors in the increase over 1948.