

The oval-shaped bed, about three miles long and one and one half miles wide, lies six and one-half miles south of Wood Island, P.E.I., and four and one-half miles north-west of the western end of Pictou Island at a depth of eight to 15 fathoms.

RETAIL TRADE UP 5 P.C.: Sales of Canadian retail merchants were estimated at \$664,000,000 in July, an increase of five per cent over the total of \$630,000,000 for July last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The seven-month total for this year was \$4,213,000,000 as compared with \$3,936,000,000 in the like period of 1948, a rise of seven per cent.

The advance in July was due in the main to heavy purchases of motor vehicles, sales of motor vehicle dealers showing an overall increase of 44 per cent. Appliance and radio dealers have shown a stronger sales position in recent months with a sales gain of 16 per cent in July. Small increases were reported for other trades, including food, department, lumber and building, restaurant and jewellery trades. The decreases, while more numerous, were of minor proportions in all cases except coal and wood dealers with a decline of 21 per cent.

Almost all trades showed a higher dollar volume of sales in the first seven months of this year, furniture and coal and wood dealers with respective declines of one and nine per cent being the only exceptions. Increases in the seven-month period were uniformly moderate, only the automotive trades showing gains of 10 per cent or more.

EXPORT AND IMPORT PRICES: Prices of Canadian domestic produce exported and those of commodities imported into Canada for consumption during 1948 were both more than twice as great as the average prices of the years 1935 to 1939, the rise in export prices being slightly more than in import prices, according to a new series of price indexes for commodity exports and imports prepared and recently released by the Bureau of Statistics. Both export and import prices advanced considerably more than wholesale prices in Canada over the same period.

Based on 1935-39 equals 100, the new indexes indicate that Canada's exports of domestic produce as a whole were 114.5 per cent higher last year than in the base period. Prices of the year's imports for consumption were close behind in rate of gain with a rise of 113.7 per cent.

TO COMMEMORATE BCATP: The partnership of Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand in the famed British Commonwealth Air Training Plan will be commemorated at RCAF Station, Trenton, Ont., on September 30 when memorial gates will be presented to Canada by the other three nations which participated in the plan. Presentation of the gates will be made to the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, British Secretary of State for Air, and Rt. Hon. F.M. Forde and Hon. James Thorn, the Australian and New Zealand High Commissioners in Canada. The ceremony will be attended by top ranking government and air force officials from the four Commonwealth countries which took part in the plan, and also from the United States, many of whose young men joined the RCAF before their own country entered the Second World War.

Included in those expected to attend the ceremony from outside Canada are Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder, Chief of the Air Staff; Sir James H. Barnes, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Air; A/C J.L. Findlay, representing the New Zealand Chief of the Air Staff and G/C C.W. Pearce, representing the Australian Chief of the Air Staff.

CANADIANS TO ATTEND

Among the Canadians who played a prominent part in the BCATP, the Rt. Hon. W.L. MacKenzie King, former Prime Minister; Hon. C.G. Power, and Hon. Colin Gibson, Wartime Ministers of National Defence (Air) and Air Chief Marshal L.S. Breadner and Air Marshal Robert Leckie, former Chiefs of the Air Staff will also attend the ceremony.

The gate structure consists of double main gates and posterns made from ornamental hand-wrought iron, processed in the United Kingdom, with four stone pillars and a flanking wall to the highway level. The gates bear the coats-of-arms of the four nations that participated in the BCATP. The pillars and wall are made from Queenston Limestone quarried in the Niagara Peninsula. The walls will be inscribed as follows:

"These gates have been given to the Government of Canada by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand to commemorate their partnership with Canada in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the service of the airmen who helped to bring victory to the Allied cause in the Second World War."

The inscription is in both English and French.

Trenton was one of the RCAF's major centres for both ground and air training during the Second World War, and is an appropriate location for such a memorial.

"NORONIC" DISASTER PROBE: The following statement on the S.S. "NORONIC" disaster, was made by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, in the House of Commons on September 19:

"I should like to refer to the very unfortunate disaster which occurred in Toronto on Saturday morning, September 17, when the Canada Steamship Lines S.S. "NORONIC" took fire at her berth, with a loss of life reaching well over 125, according to latest reports. I understand that all of the passengers have not been accounted for, and the list of persons missing over and above those whose bodies have been recovered stands at approximately 70. I am sure that all the Members of this House will join with me in extending to the families and relatives of those who have lost their dear ones our most sincere sympathy in their hour of grief.

"The passenger list of the S.S. "NORONIC" was made up of nearly 500 United States and some 20 Canadian citizens. It is deplorable that such an accident occurred where loss of life affects so many families of our friends in the United States, and I am fully conscious of their sorrow and tribulation for the fate of their next of kin. I would like to pay tribute to the authorities of the City of Toronto for the magnificent way in which they marshalled their various emergency organizations to assist in this tragedy and to alleviate as much as is possible in such circumstances the physical and mental burden of those afflicted.

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

"As soon as the extent of the tragedy became known, I immediately appointed Captain W.N. Morrison, Supervising Examiner of Masters and Mates, Toronto, to hold a preliminary inquiry, under the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act. He will be assisted in his duties by Captain G.C.L. Johnson, Assistant to the Supervisor of Nautical Division here in Ottawa. The inquiry was started this morning (September 19) in Toronto. Also under the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act, I have appointed the Honourable Mr. Justice R.L. Kellock of the Supreme Court of Canada to act as Commissioner in a formal investigation which will get under way as soon as it is humanly possible to do so.

"I would like to inform the public in both the United States and Canada that I examined the report of the Steamship Inspection of the S.S. "NORONIC" and found that the vessel had complied with the steamship requirements of the Canada Shipping Act. On April 23, the Master of the ship was given his certificate authorizing him to operate the vessel on the Great Lakes and connecting waters carrying up to 600 passengers and 200 of a crew. This certificate is issued after it has been found that the engines, the boilers, the fire extinguishing equipment, and life-saving apparatus are operating efficiently and in accordance with the Act. The report also indicat-

ed that the owners had installed a new fire alarm system. The certificate issued by the Steamship Inspection Service of the Department of Transport is recognized by the United States Coast Guard Service. I am also advised that when the S.S. "NORONIC" called at a United States port early in the navigation season, a representative of the United States Coast Guard inspected the ship, and as he was satisfied with the condition of the ship, he likewise issued a certificate under the provisions of the American Act. I think I should state that the owners of the vessel had complied with the requirements of the Canada Shipping Act and of the United States Coast Guard Inspection Service insofar as it applied to Canadian ships.

"This terrible disaster is of such gravity that it has been considered advisable to appoint a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada to hold an inquiry. As the investigation will be proceeding immediately, it would be improper for me to make any further statement at this time. However, the inquiry will be a public one at which all the facts will be fully disclosed, and if there is any blame or negligence on the part of anyone, it will be brought to light."

FOREIGN VEHICLE ENTRIES: Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits in August totalled 426,700, showing an increase of five per cent over the same month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. This raised the cumulative total for the first eight months of this year to 1,453,070 from 1,319,870, or by slightly more than 10 per cent.

There were increased entries shown for nearly all provinces in August, the Maritimes and Prairie Provinces continuing to show higher percentage gains than the Central Provinces and British Columbia. In the eight-month comparison, the greatest proportionate gain was registered in the Prairie Provinces.

COAL PRODUCTION: Continuing the downward trend of recent months, production of coal in Canada was 10 per cent lower in August than in the corresponding month last year, but was up one per cent in the first eight months of the year. Imports were down 51 per cent in the month and 25 percent in the cumulative period.

According to figures issued by the Bureau of Statistics, the all-Canada output in August totalled 1,243,100 tons as compared with 1,383,700 a year earlier. During the eight-month period, 11,430,700 tons were produced as against 11,327,500 in the same months last year. Imports were down to 2,102,600 tons in August compared with 4,370,200 a year ago, bringing total imports for the year to date to 14,492,000 tons against 19,236,800 in the like period of 1948.