

Total loadings of grain declined from 6,093 to 4,566 cars, grain products from 3,460 to 2,431 cars, lumber from 4,818 to 4,617 cars, and l.c.l. merchandise from 18,258 to 17,832 cars. Coal increased from 4,631 to 5,627 cars, pulpwood from 5,860 to 6,475 cars, gasoline and oils from 4,444 to 4,818 cars and iron and steel products from 1,210 to 1,484 cars.

**P.E.I. FISHERIES:** Total marketed value of the fisheries of Prince Edward Island in 1947 was \$2,897,000, a decrease of \$1,574,000 or 35 per cent from the record figure of \$4,471,000 in the preceding year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decrease was caused both by smaller quantities landed and lower prices for the marketed products. The total quantity of fish and shellfish landed during the year was 317,000 cwt., a decrease of 11 per cent from 1946 landings of 355,000 cwt.

**DRAMA SPECIALIST:** Michael Meiklejohn, B.Sc., M.B.E., of Ottawa, for 18 years active in the development of drama in Canada, has been appointed by the Civil Service Commission to the staff of the National Fitness Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

"Drama is playing an increasingly important part in the recreation programs sponsored by the provinces," Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, commented. "This is a very encouraging and worthwhile development. The addition to our staff of a man with such extensive experience in this field will make available to the provinces advice and assistance of the highest calibre."

Mr. Meiklejohn has appeared as an actor in more than 60 roles with the Ottawa Drama League and as a producer of a large number of one-act plays and of four major productions. The most recent of these was "The Cherry Orchard" earlier this year. He was co-producer of "Blithe Spirit", the Ottawa Drama League's entry in the Dominion Drama Festival in 1947 and co-producer and principal actor in the Ottawa Drama League's Workshop's presentation of "Eros at Breakfast". This play by Robertson Davies won the Fulford shield for the best presentation of a one-act play in the Eastern Ontario regional festival at Kingston in 1948 and the Barry Jackson trophy for the best play by a Canadian author in the Dominion Drama Festival this year.

In 1937 he was one of the founders of the Ottawa Drama League Workshop whose annual play-writing contest now attracts entries from every province and is the most important contest of its kind in Canada.

A governor of the Dominion Drama Festival, Mr. Meiklejohn is also a director of the Ottawa Drama League and vice-chairman of the Eastern Ontario regional committee of the Dominion Drama Festival. He has worked extensively with rural community drama groups in Eastern Ontario.

under the sponsorship of the Ontario Department of Education and is currently working with Carleton College, Ottawa, on a recreational leadership course which includes special skills in drama.

**REVISE BUTTER CEILING:** The Wartime Prices and Trade Board on July 20 announced that the order governing the prices of butter has been revised by incorporating fixed amounts allowed as freight charges into the ceiling prices as well as by permitting a 1/4% increase in the wholesaler's price of pound prints.

These adjustments, which became effective July 21, will result in retail ceiling prices approximately one cent higher than when the ceilings were reimposed last January. However a part of the increase has been in effect since the freight rate increase in April when the Board permitted individual sellers to add their additional freight costs to the ceiling prices.

**SEEK FUR WORKERS:** The Interdepartmental Committee dealing with immigration matters on July 19 issued the following statement:

"Arrangements have been made for some experienced fur workers to be selected in displaced camps in Germany for work in Canada. The arrangements were made with the two unions concerned and a group of employers.

"One of the features of the arrangement was that representatives of the employers and of the two unions concerned were to go to Germany and were to assist in selecting the workers to be brought to Canada. One of the unions, the International Fur and Leather Workers Union, has nominated three different men as their representative, but they have not been acceptable because of the possibility of their being favourable to communistic beliefs.

"The Canadian Director of the Union in question, Mr. Robert Haddow, has been advised as follows: 'Our position is simply this -- We will be very pleased to provide facilities for representatives of the union in question to proceed to Germany to assist in the selection of displaced persons if a man were nominated who could be cleared by the authorities as being free from favouring communism.'"

**PRODUCTION RISING:** Production of domestic electric refrigerators and washing machines by Canadian manufacturers was still rising in May over last year's rate. Output of refrigerators, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was 11,040 units during the month compared with 10,549 in April and 7,550 in May, 1947, making a total output of 53,882 units in the five months ended May as against 40,829 last year. Factory shipments in May for sale in Canada exceeded the month's production, amounting to 11,288 units, and factory stocks at the end of the month stood at 1,350 units.

### MR. BRACKEN TO RESIGN AS P.C. LEADER

**LETTER TO MR. MACDONNELL:** John Bracken has announced his intention to resign the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party, which he has held since the 1942 Winnipeg convention. He will retire, he said in a letter to J.M. Macdonnell, M.P., President of the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada, because of his age and ill-health.

Mr. Bracken's letter asked that a party convention be called at the earliest possible date. At such convention, he said, he proposes to tender his resignation as Leader. Mr. Macdonnell, according to the Canadian Press, has called a meeting of the Association executive for next Monday to consider the time and place of the convention.

On learning of Mr. Bracken's intended resignation, the Prime Minister issued a statement expressing regret that Mr. Bracken had found it necessary to resign as Leader of his Party.

#### TEXT OF LETTER

The text of Mr. Bracken's letter to Mr. Macdonnell is as follows:

"I am writing to you with respect to the question of the re-statement of our policy and my personal relationship thereto.

"The last occasion upon which policy was considered formally by a convention of the Party was in 1942 at Winnipeg -- a convention held during wartime.

"While that program is still sound, there has been expressed a widespread desire, in view of present day conditions, for a re-statement of the principles which are basic to the Progressive Conservative Party. With that view, I am in agreement.

"Accordingly, immediately after the 1947 session of Parliament, I appointed a number of informal committees to study various aspects of the party policy. Later on, prior to the opening of Parliament in January, 1948, I summoned the chairmen of caucus committees to Ottawa, and spent with them several days in consultation on every phase of public policy. Following this, the various caucus committees deliberated on the aspects of policy within their respective jurisdictions. Subsequently, at the annual meeting of the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada it was possible to present to the Resolutions Committee a series of considered, but not final statements of policy.

"That committee and the annual meeting itself then recommended:

"That the Leader of our party establish a select policy and publicity committee and that such committee consider the resolutions contained in this report and other matters of policy and that there shall be a restatement of our party's policy not later than August 1, 1948.

"As suggested in this resolution, I appointed the committee. It now has completed its

work, and I am passing on its report to you, as national president.

#### CONVENTION CONSIDERATION

"While the document in its present form is the result of considerable study, it is my view that it might well receive a wider and more representative review before final adoption. In the circumstances I suggest that it would be well to have it given final consideration by a convention of the party in which each constituency would have the opportunity to be represented. I therefore recommend to you, as national president that such a convention be called at the earliest possible date.

"At this point I wish to raise a related question, I am confident that the principles for which we stand are those which Canadians in every province wish to see adopted in public administration. These principles must be expounded vigorously in every section of Canada. An intensive effort is essential on the part of every party adherent, from the Leader to the most junior poll worker in the farthest distant part of Canada. With such an effort we can face the next general election with confidence.

"Obviously it must be the responsibility of the Leader to carry the weight of that effort. He should visit every section; the constituencies will expect it. A very heavy program for him is therefore inescapable. For any man this is a most burdensome task, one which will tax his physical capacity to the utmost.

"For over two years prior to the last election I endeavoured to perform this task. I visited more places than any previous Leader in Canadian political history. Never have I had an experience I cherished more than this intimate association with my fellow Canadians in every part of Canada, but many times I had to draw upon my final reserve of strength and energy to complete most arduous schedules.

"I am now, however, 65 years of age. Fortunately, my physical-condition gives no cause for immediate concern, although twice in the last year I have been advised on clinical examination that I should take things easier. The difficulty with which I am confronted is that if the Party is to succeed, as I believe, it can, the Leader must not only not take things easier, but he must accelerate and intensify his activities.

"Reluctantly, therefore, and with profound regret, I have come to the conclusion I should ask that the responsibility of the Party's leadership be placed on younger shoulders. It is my wish that this matter as well as the matter of policy should receive consideration at a widely representative convention.

"At such convention I propose to tender my resignation as Leader.

"I wish to assure you that my interest in public affairs will not slacken, nor my concern for the welfare of the Party, although I