

**URGES GATT EXTENSION:** Speaking at the eighth session of the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade at Geneva on September 18, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, said the time was clearly approaching for a general review of the Agreement. He urged the renewal of the Agreement for another year until the United States had made clear its policy on international trade.

Whatever its shortcomings, Mr. Howe said, the General Agreement provided the best basis thus far attained for the successful and efficient conduct of world trade. He did not suppose any responsible person wished seriously to propose the abolition or weakening of the structure of international trade agreements.

#### U. S. COMMISSION

After referring to the appointment in the United States of a Commission to study all aspects of foreign economic policy, and to studies being made in other governments, he continued, in part:

"In the meantime, my Government believes that the most important question to be faced at the present Session is, what to do about the tariff schedules when the period of their assured life expires at the end of this year. In the existing situation, it seems to me that the schedules should be re-bound for a definite period. This period should be as short as possible and still provide enough time for the necessary arrangements to be made. We might consider a period of a year, to extend until the end of 1954.

"In the present circumstances, it seems unwise to permit Article XXVIII to be used on a wide-spread basis, because there is no telling how far the withdrawals might go. As long as it is known that negotiations are being arranged for the latter part of 1954, it should not be too difficult for the governments concerned to re-bind the existing schedules until then. If any such rebinding is to be effective and acceptable, however, there must be no major withdrawals or impairments of the Agreement in the meantime, by any of those concerned. In the broad interests of our export trade in Canada, I believe we can do this, provided other countries will do the same....

"Two years ago, bilateralism was probably more of a threat to the ideas of the General Agreement than it is today. In the meantime, more people have learned through experience that restrictive trade policies create problems rather than solve them, and that they lead to high costs and inefficiency. There is a tendency, among some of the financially weaker countries, to wonder whether they have been well served by their own restrictions.

"Two years ago, the threat of economic regionalism was probably more in people's minds than it is today. In various parts of the world, ideas have arisen from time to time

about escaping from world-wide problems by organizing a restrictive trading system among a few countries and erecting barriers against outsiders. Small groups of countries cannot really live in self-sufficiency or in splendid solitude in today's world, however, and most of the advocates of regional blocs have had to come up against the inescapable facts of the world situation.

"There is an opportunity at present to consolidate our past accomplishments and to prepare ourselves to meet the future. It is possible that new opportunities may arise, next year, for the Contracting Parties to take new initiatives in the development of multi-lateral world trade. The task of reconstruction of the international trading world is a very large one and it cannot all be done at once. It can only be done through sustained efforts of international cooperation and much has already been achieved. I hope that we shall be in a position to take full advantage of further opportunities when they do arise."

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**EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLLS UP:** Further expansion in industrial employment was recorded at the beginning of July, and the Bureau's general index number of employment rose by 1.8 per cent over June, and 2.9 per cent over July last year. At the same time the payrolls index climbed 1.6 per cent over June and 9.8 per cent over July a year ago, while average weekly earnings declined slightly from June 1, but rose 6.7 per cent over July last year.

The industrial employment index for July stood at 190.8 as compared with 187.5 a month earlier, and 185.5 a year ago, while the payrolls index was 468.1 as compared with 460.9 at June 1, and 426.3 at July 1 last year. Weekly wages and salaries averaged \$57.58 as compared with \$57.71 a month ago, and \$53.96 in July, 1952.

The general movement of employment at the beginning of July was favourable in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, in 24 of the cities for which data are published, and in most industries.

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**PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY:** Production of electric energy by central electric stations continued to climb in July. The month's output amounted to 5,180,727,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 4,841,336,000 in the same month last year, bringing the January-July aggregate to 38,636,944,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 35,649,242,000.

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There were only 74 harness shops left in Canada in 1951, a drop from 215 in 1941, and 601 ten years earlier. Over the same period the number of horses on farms fell to 1,306,639 in 1951 from 2,788,795 in 1941 and 3,113,909 in 1931.