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Gen. Crerar Retires: Gen. H.D.G. Crerar, C.H., C.R., D.S.O.; now 58, who commanded the 1st Canadian Army in Northwest Europe, is retiring to civilian life this weekend. He is the fourth Canadian to attain the rank of full general and the first ever to command a full army in the field, troops under his command at one time numbering 500,000.

It was announced earlier in the year that Gen. Crerar soon would retire and he made a farewell coast-to-coast tour of Canada. Today, after his return from Prague where he received the highest Czechoslovakian award--The Order of the White Lion (For Victory) as well as The Order of the White Lion (First Class), it was announced by Defence Headquarters that his retirement would be effective October 27.

A native of Hamilton, Ont., he graduated from the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ont., and had a distinguished record in the First Great War as an expert in counter-battery fire. In the recent war he handled large infantry, artillery and armored formations with unqualified success, emerging as one of the first rank commanders of modern warfare. His tunic bears many rows of ribbons, including awards from all the principal United Nations.

Other Canadians to attain the rank of general were Gen. Sir William Otter, South African War commander; Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, Canadian commander in the First Great War, and Gen. A.G.L. McNaughton, who led the Canadian Army in the early part of the last war.

Coal Situation Improving: With an improvement in the domestic fuel situation, due to increased imports of anthracite, Reconstruction Minister Howe has announced that from now until February 1, 1947, coal consumers in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime provinces may obtain 100 per cent of their normal solid fuel requirements, with not more than 80 per cent in Class "A" fuel.

Because of the prolonged coal strikes in the United States recently, consumers had been permitted only 80 per cent of normal requirements with 60 per cent in top grade fuel. Mr. Howe said it was "impossible to state whether these increases will continue," adding that because of the recent Canadian steel strikes the coke inventory was "extremely low," and with a severe coke shortage in the U.S. "no appreciable increase" in imports could be expected for some time. However, larger quantities of briquettes and domestic coal from western Canada were available. Class "A" fuels include U.S. and Welsh anthracite, any "sized" coke, low volatile coal and briquettes.

Rubber Strikes Virtually Over: The settlement of two more strikes in Canadian rubber plants leaves only one strike continuing at the Merchant's plant of the Dominion Rubber Company at Kitchener, Ont., where negotiators are reported to be near an agreement. The strikes settled were at the Dominion Rubber Company's textile plant, also in Kitchener, where employees have ratified a new agreement reached yesterday, and at Toronto, where 1,400 workers at the Gutta Percha Tire and Rubber Company plant voted to end a dispute which began last June 24. More than 10,000 workers in 10 rubber plants had been involved in the work stoppages which resulted in drastic shortages of automobile tires and other articles. (CP)

Many Joining R.A.F.: Air Force Headquarters has announced that 700 former members of the R.C.A.F. already have responded to the R.A.F. recruiting drive in Canada. Officials at Ottawa say no limit has yet been placed on how many recruits the R.A.F. will accept from Canada. (CP)

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