

## UNITED NATIONS

**CANADIAN AMENDMENT:** The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council on August 20 continued its debate on the report of the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization (PCIRO) regarding legal difficulties arising from the war, mostly disappearances and deaths inconclusively established by normal certification procedures, the U.N. Press Bureau reports.

The Committee's Chairman, Leonid Kaminsky (Byelorussian SSR), questioned the legality of the proposed convention prior to the completion of the German and Japanese peace treaties and suggested that perhaps, PCIRO could itself undertake to draft such a convention for submission and ratification by IRO members.

Alexander P. Borisov (USSR) stated that the problem had political implications, and cautioned the Committee's members not to act too hastily. However, the Committee rejected the Soviet proposal to postpone action to the next session.

Venezuela, Canada, and Turkey supported a joint US-UK resolution, amended by Canada, which the Committee adopted. It requests the Secretary General of the United Nations: (1) to prepare in collaboration with PCIRO and other competent organizations a preliminary draft convention on this subject; (2) to submit the draft not later than October 20, 1948, to member states of the United Nations for comment; (3) to submit the draft convention to the eighth session of the Economic and Social Council with such comments as received from members in order to enable the Council to take such action as may be appropriate with the view to definitive action on this matter by the General Assembly at its fourth regular session.

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shipments to Europe were moderately higher in July, the total rising from \$32,095,000 to \$33,418,000; for the seven-month period the figure was \$177,363,000 compared with \$210,214,000.

July exports to leading markets next to the United States and the United Kingdom were as follows, in thousands, totals for July last year being in brackets: Newfoundland, \$5,053 (\$4,341); Jamaica, \$1,015 (1,297); Union of South Africa, \$6,620 (\$4,996); India and Pakistan, \$4,301 (\$4,452); Hong Kong, \$1,188 (\$437); Australia, \$1,949 (\$5,526); New Zealand, \$1,086 (\$2,190); Argentina, \$1,636 (\$2,444); Brazil, \$3,838 (\$2,108); Mexico, \$1,272 (\$867); Belgium, \$2,671 (\$5,858); Denmark, \$2,270 (\$148); France, \$15,144 (\$6,098); Germany, \$1,350 (\$49); Italy, \$1,544 (\$2,640); Netherlands, \$4,119 (\$5,406); Switzerland, \$1,445 (\$1,637).

Advances were shown in July by six of the

nine main commodity groups of exports, most pronounced increase being registered by the miscellaneous section. In this group, which rose from \$6,200,000 a year ago to \$22,400,000, ships and vessels increased from \$139,000 to \$17,195,000. Of this amount, sales to France accounted for \$12,450,850, to Brazil, \$2,778,686, Denmark, \$1,225,000, and Hong Kong, \$725,000.

With all main items contributing to the rise, the wood and paper products group ranked second in absolute increase, advancing from \$75,530,000 to \$82,142,000. Due to reduced values of wheat and wheat flour exports, the agricultural and vegetable products group fell from \$62,690,000 in July last year to \$46,067,000. In the animal products section, which rose from \$21,435,000 in July last year to \$26,442,000, there were gains in cattle, fish and fishery products, and eggs, and decreases in furs, leather, and bacon and hams.

The non-ferrous metals and products group advanced from \$28,655,000 in July last year to \$30,930,000, copper and products, lead and products, nickel, precious metals except gold, zinc and products all showing increases. The iron and products group showed little change, standing at \$23,204,000 compared with \$23,703,000. There were increases in rolling mill products, farm implements and machinery, freight automobiles, and railway cars and parts, and declines in ferro-alloys, machinery other than farm, passenger automobiles and automobile parts.

The fibres and textiles group rose from \$4,493,000 in July last year to \$5,727,000, wool and products showing a marked advance, and artificial silk and products a sharp decrease. Non-metallics as a group rose from \$6,570,000 in July last year to \$7,578,000, and chemicals fell from \$7,256,000 to \$6,414,000.

**MANUFACTURING INVENTORIES:** The index number of the value of manufacturing inventories, on the base December 1946=100, rose to 144.0 at the end of May from 142.5 at the end of April and 111.6 a year ago, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The rise over the preceding month was due to slight increases in each of the main classifications. Total inventories of consumers' goods rose by 0.6 points (though in the durable group they fell by 2.3 points); capital goods inventories rose by 2.1 points; producers' materials by 4.9 points; and construction materials by 5.9 points. Much of the rise in value in construction inventories is probably balanced by the advance in the wholesale price of builders' materials, which was 5.1 points during the same period.

Among individual industries, inventories held by leather tanneries showed the greatest change in value since the end of April, dropping 23.1 points.