

negative and restrictive principles. This would be more than stupid. It would be a tragedy if the western democratic world, on the very morrow of the Atlantic Pact which marked so encouragingly the end of political isolation, substituted for that isolation a form of economic isolation through the formation of dollar and sterling blocs, looking at each other with irritation and suspicion over mounting trade barriers and diminishing trade returns. No one could possibly benefit from such a development except those patient calculating gentlemen behind the Kremlin walls and their agents throughout the world. Their ill-concealed satisfaction over this possibility should be our warning not to permit it to happen...."

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Washington, M.W. Mackenzie, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, L. Rasminsky, Chairman (Alternate) of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, J.J. Deutsch, Director, Economic Relations Division, Department of Finance, A.F.W. Plumptre, Head of the Economic Division of the Department of External Affairs.

HOURLY EARNINGS: Average weekly wages of hourly-rated wage-earners employed by leading Canadian manufacturing establishments at June 1 stood at \$40.43 as compared with \$41.91 at the beginning of May, the decrease being due to shorter hours, resulting in the main from the observance of holidays. In the heavy manufactured goods class, the weekly wage figure was \$43.77 as compared with \$45.35 a month earlier, while in the non-durable goods division the average was \$37.15 compared with \$38.37.

The average hourly earnings reported by the larger manufacturing establishments at June 1 reached a new maximum figure of 99.1 cents, a gain of half a cent over the figure recorded for the week of May 1. Wage-earners in the durable goods group received an average of 106.5 cents per hour as compared with 106.2 a month earlier. In the light manufactured goods division, the hourly earnings rose by four-fifths of a cent to a new maximum of 91.5 cents, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

VEHICLE ENTRIES UP: The number of foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits -- excluding points of entry into Newfoundland -- was 11 per cent greater in July than in the same month last year. The greatest proportionate gain was shown in the Western Provinces and the Maritimes where traffic showed gains of 25 and 20 per cent, respectively. Entries during the first seven months of this year were 13 per cent heavier

than in the similar period last year. Increased entries were shown in all provinces except Nova Scotia and Yukon Territory both in the month and cumulative period.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, the number of entries in July totalled 453,200 as compared with 407,900 in the same month a year ago. During the seven-month period, 1,026,300 vehicles entered Canada as against 911,800 in the like period of 1948.

ARMED FORCES STRENGTH: Figures disclosing the overall strength of the Active and Reserve Forces of the Armed Services were released on August 24 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

Mr. Claxton stated that the Royal Canadian Navy has reached its presently planned complement of 9,047 in the Permanent Force but is continuing to recruit to take care of normal wastage incurred through monthly retirements and discharges. The R.C.N. (Reserve) had recruited 4,278 officers and men by June 30.

The Canadian Army, Active Force, with a present establishment of 23,034, had a total strength of 19,522 on June 30, while the Reserve Force numbered 37,794.

The R.C.A.F. was within 3,000 of the 18,278 establishment with a strength of 15,358 officers and men on June 30. On that date, too, the R.C.A.F. had 3,031 personnel on Active Reserve units.

Mr. Claxton pointed out that the active full time forces now totalled 43,927 for the three services, or 87% of their present establishments.

Establishments were subject to change from time to time by the Cabinet in the light of changing conditions. In January, 1947, the target figures were 7,500 for the Navy, 18,750 for the Army, and 12,150 for the Air Force, or a total of 38,400 for the three active forces.

RCAF APPOINTMENT: Announcement of the appointment of Group Captain V.H. Patriarche, OBE, AFC, of Winnipeg, Man. as Director of Service Requirements for the RCAF, was made at Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa, on August 24. G/C Patriarche replaces G/C D.S. Blaine, of Ottawa who will be attached to the Canadian Joint Staff in the United States.

WORK STOPPAGES DECLINE: Time loss due to work stoppages arising from industrial disputes in Canada during July, 1949, showed a marked decrease of more than 83,000 days from the figures for the previous month, according to the monthly summary of strikes and lockouts for July issued on August 23 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.