

**U.K.-CANADA TRADE COMMITTEE:** The United Kingdom-Canada Continuing Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs, which was formed following Sir Stafford Cripps' visit to Canada last September, will hold its first meeting in London on January 25 under the Chairmanship of Mr. N.A. Robertson, Canadian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom.

The Committee is to meet alternately in London under the Chairmanship of the Canadian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, and in Ottawa under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Canada.

This Committee was established as a means of ensuring continued and close liaison between official representatives of the two countries. Through this Committee consultation will take place on commercial and economic matters of mutual concern, and especially on measures which both countries might adopt to ensure the greatest trade possible between them. Consequent upon such consultation, the members of the Committee will report to their respective Governments.

The Canadian members are:

Mr. N.A. Robertson, Canadian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom.

Mr. M.W. Mackenzie, Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce.

Dr. G.S.H. Barton, Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture.

Mr. J.J. Deutsch, Director, International Economic Relations, Department of Finance.

The United Kingdom members are:

Sir John Woods, K.C.B., M.V.O., Permanent Secretary of the Board of Trade.

Sir Henry Wilson Smith, K.C.B., K.B.E., Second Secretary at the Treasury.

Mr. F.G. Lee, C.M.G., Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Food.

Sir Percivale Liesching, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Commonwealth Relations Office, will also attend.

**WHEAT AGREEMENT:** Representatives of the United Kingdom and Canadian Governments have had discussions on the price to be paid by the United Kingdom for Canadian wheat in 1949-50, the fourth and final year under the United Kingdom-Canadian Wheat Agreement of 1946. After taking into account all relevant considerations, including but without attempting to reach a final settlement of the United

Kingdom obligations under Clause 2(b) of the agreement; the two governments have agreed upon a price of \$2.00 per bushel, the Government announced on January 20.

The two Governments have also agreed that their representatives shall meet not later than July 31, 1950, to settle any obligations of the United Kingdom which may then still be outstanding under Clause 2(b) of the Agreement. The extent to which any such obligations will remain will depend largely upon the actual prices ruling for wheat during 1949-50.

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Admitted to the bar of Quebec in 1929, Mr. Heeney practised law with the Montreal firm of Meredith, Holden, Heward and Holden until late in 1938. From 1934 to 1938 he was sessional lecturer in the Faculty of Law, McGill University. He was President of the Montreal Junior Board of Trade in 1931 and 1932 and in 1938 counsel and secretary to the Quebec Protestant Education Survey.

On October 1, 1938, Mr. Heeney became principal secretary to the Prime Minister. On March 25, 1940 he was appointed Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet. He was created King's Counsel (Dominion) on February 17, 1941.

Mr. Heeney attended the Quebec Conferences of 1943 and 1944 with the Prime Minister, and the San Francisco Conference in 1945. He was a member of the Canadian Delegation to the Paris Peace Conference in 1946.

Married in 1931 to Margaret Yuile of Montreal, Mr. Heeney has one son and one daughter.

**VALUE OF INVENTORIES:** Advance information points to a very slight rise in the value of inventories held by Canada's manufacturing industries during November, states the Bureau of Statistics. Of the main industry groupings, inventories in the consumers' goods industries appear to have decreased in value to a small extent. Inventories in the producers' goods industries have risen, though not as much as in October. Stocks held in the capital goods industries have also increased, reversing a two-month fall in this group.

A breakdown of the larger groupings shows that, in the consumers' goods group, stocks in the food group have risen, due to increases in the sugar refining and slaughtering and meat packing industries. These more than offset the seasonal decline in the dairy industry, where stocks decreased more than in October, but not as much as in November, 1947, and decreases in the biscuit and confectionery, and miscellaneous foods industries. Inventories in the feed and flour industry increased in value slightly, and those in the pulp and paper industry declined. Stocks in the semi-durable and durable consumers' goods industries decreased slightly.

### RCAF RADAR AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

**FORMED IN MONTREAL:** The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, on January 18, announced formation of a special Radar and Communications Unit of the RCAF in Montreal, the first of a projected series of technical training units planned to provide Canada with a reserve of trained radar and communications technicians. The new unit organization departs from the pattern of the present RCAF Auxiliary squadrons in that it will specialize in radar and communications rather than flying. The unit is known as No. 1 Radar and Communications Unit, RCAF (Auxiliary).

Commanding Officer of the new Montreal unit is Squadron Leader K.R. Patrick, OBE, manager of the Engineering Products Division of RCA Victor, in Montreal. S/L Patrick, one of the RCAF's top wartime technical officers in the electronics field, served as commanding officer of the Radar School at Clinton during the war, with rank of Wing Commander.

Initial strength of the new Montreal unit stands at approximately 150 officers and men, drawn from civilian professional radar and communications technicians in the Montreal district, many having had wartime service with the RCAF. Members of the unit will serve on a part-time basis, as in the case of the Auxiliary flying squadrons, and the initial group of experienced professional men will serve as an instructional body for recruits lacking experience. The unit is open for immediate recruiting.

In addition to its part in the over-all plan for providing a pool of trained reserve technicians, the unit will provide radar and communications facilities for the two Montreal Auxiliary Fighter Squadrons, 401 and 438, and will handle the signals components for these two squadrons.

The new unit has a radar station at St.

John's P.Q., affiliated with Dawson College of McGill University; general radar and communications facilities at St. Hubert; and an operational centre at the headquarters of 401 Auxiliary Squadron, at Sherbrooke and Metcalfe Streets, in Montreal. It also has training and laboratory facilities at 401 Squadron Headquarters and at the St. Joseph Boulevard headquarters of 438 Auxiliary Squadron.

In addition to its routine operations with the two Montreal RCAF Auxiliary Flying Squadrons, the Radar and Communications Unit will work closely with Regular Force units of all three Services in the area. Liaison with the Army will include joint exercises involving Army anti-aircraft units.

Establishment of this new RCAF unit and of similar units planned for the future, is the result of the acknowledged importance of radar and communications facilities in an air interceptor defence organization and, in fact, in all modern air operations connected with defence. Service heads realize that in event of future emergency the number of trained technicians in Canada would likely be insufficient to supply both essential civilian industry and Service requirements. The new plan backs up training facilities of the Regular RCAF already busily engaged in turning out radar and communications technicians.

Locations of additional units for the training of radar and communications technicians, some of which will be similar to the unit now being formed in Montreal, have not yet been definitely determined, nor have dates for their activation. It is expected, however, that most of them will be located at points where Auxiliary flying squadrons are in existence. Preliminary plans for a unit in Toronto are now under way.

**WORLD FOOD SUPPLY:** Barring climatic calamity and in spite of currency, distribution and production problems that result in local food scarcities in the midst of world near abundance, famine can be avoided during the next few years, Dr. G.S.H. Barton, federal Deputy Minister of Agriculture, told the Ottawa Branch of the United Nations Society in an address on January 18.

Dr. Barton said that as a result of the 1948 harvests essential basic foods for human consumption are in sufficient supply, for the first time since the war, to permit the removal of some of the most serious restrictions.

"Among these basic foods", said Dr. Barton, "may be mentioned bread grains, rice, wheat and rye, sugar, oils and fats; and among the restrictions removed in most countries are extraction requirements and bread rationing". But "there are still grave problems of dis-

tribution and probably the majority of people in the world are suffering because of inadequate diets".

Examining prospects for the near future, Dr. Barton warned that "while not all of the food in the world will be consumed before this (1949) year's harvests are garnered, the residue will not be large; world stocks will be at a low point" and the dollar crisis will still be with us.

Referring to the dollar crisis, Dr. Barton pointed out that "production for export may take place in any country without previous actual assurance of markets in other countries, but it cannot be encouraged or expected in products for which access to such other countries is controlled by the supplies of similar products in a competitive country. The net result in a country like Canada, whose products may be so affected, may well be that neither