

The Board directs that its said Order No. 69612, dated October 17th, 1947, be rescinded.

The judgment provides that, - The Railway Companies subject to the jurisdiction of the Board will be required to continue to furnish to the Board monthly statements of their operating revenues, operating expenses and operating income and should the Board, at any time, be of opinion that a greater amount of money is being paid to the Railway Companies than is actually necessary to enable them to maintain a reasonable degree of operating efficiency, the Board reserves the right, at any time, on notice, to readjust the rates to meet the conditions then existing. On the other hand, should the amount of advance in rates authorized prove to be insufficient, the railways can always apply again.

Mr. Hugh Wardrope, Assistant Chief Commissioner, in a separate judgment finds from his view of the evidence and calculations that the applicants should be permitted to raise the rates subject to increase by twenty-four per cent rather than the twenty-one per cent arrived at by the majority.

STORE SALES UP: Department store sales were three per cent higher in February than in the corresponding month last year, and had an average increase of nine per cent for the first two months of this year. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 195.1 for February, 192.2 for January and 189.3 for February last year.

Gains in Quebec, Ontario and the Prairie Provinces were about on a par with the average increase for the Dominion as a whole. The volume in British Columbia was up 10 per cent, while sales in the Maritimes declined nine per cent. Increases outnumbered decreases among the results for the various departments, but the increases were moderated somewhat from those recorded in recent months.

COMMODITY PRICES: Showing a lessening in the rate of increase, the general index number of wholesale commodity prices rose a further 0.4 points in February as compared with January, to register the smallest rise since December, 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index, on the base 1926=100, stood at 147.3 as compared with 146.9 for January and 118.1 for February last year. Indexes for five of the eight main sub-groups recorded increases over the January level, one decreased, and two remained unchanged. Most pronounced advance was shown for textile products.

The following are the sub-group indexes for February showing changes, with those for January in brackets: vegetable products, 131.4 (132.6); animal products, 159.5 (159.1); textile products, 154.4 (149.1); wood products,

182.0 (181.7); non-ferrous metals, 138.8 (137.0); chemical products, 144.0 (113.7). Iron products at 150.6, and non-metallic minerals at 125.6, were unchanged from January.

MOTOR CAR FINANCING: Motor vehicle financing in Canada recorded a further increase in February, the advance in used cars being more pronounced than in the case of new vehicles. The sales of 3,203 new vehicles were financed in February, showing an increase of 14 per cent over the same month last year, while in the used car class, 5,497 were financed, an increase of 69 per cent.

The increase in the financing of new motor vehicles in February was somewhat smaller than those recorded for some time past. Passenger car financing, totalling 1,813 vehicles in February this year and 1,644 a year ago, were up only 10 per cent. Trucks and buses recorded an increase of 20 per cent, a total of 1,390 for February this year comparing with 1,157. In the used vehicle field, the increase for passenger models at 78 per cent, was somewhat higher than that for commercial vehicles which stood at 41 per cent.

SHIP SALES \$115,752,000: War Assets Corporation in February disposed of three motor vessels formerly used by the Army and two motor craft used by the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The M.V. "General Page" was purchased by the Department of Transport, Ottawa; the M.V. "General Burstall" by Capt. Norman E. Smith, Barrington, N.S., and the M.V. "General Ashton" by R.E. Jamieson Ltd., Canso, N.B. These were declared surplus by the Army. The M.V. "Comorant" was purchased by Northern Pulpwood, Ltd., Vancouver, B.C., and the M-229, a tender, was sold to W.N. Copeland, Sidney, B.C., both former air force vessels.

Sales of ships and ships components to the close of February by the Corporation aggregated in dollar returns \$115,752,000.

CHART GREAT SLAVE LAKE: Estimates for 1948-49 tabled in the House of Commons provide for the continuance of the charting of the routes leading across Great Slave Lake to Yellowknife and the northern mining areas, according to an announcement by the Honourable J. Allison Glen, Minister of Mines and Resources.

The Canadian Hydrographic Service, which is responsible for this work will continue its examination of harbours of refuge in the Great Slave Lake, and chart critical areas in the Mackenzie River, utilizing the motor launch "RAE" built in 1946 and put into hydrographic service on this waterway last year. This modern 47-foot craft, with cooking facilities and sleeping accommodation for eight men, has greatly speeded up hydrographic work on this important water route, providing reliable

charts, which before this time were almost non-existent. By making such information available, the Hydrographic Service is aiding materially in the development of the Northwest Territories.

During 1947 the portion of the west shore of the Great Slave Lake extending from Slave Point to Moraine Point was charted, and three harbours were found with deep water approaches, which after the installation of a few aids to navigation will provide safety and shelter in bad weather. The completion of the 1948 program will provide detailed knowledge of approximately three-quarters of the route from the Mackenzie River to Yellowknife, greatly expediting the shipping which is increasing over this waterway. Boats and barges, carrying oil from the Norman Wells for Yellowknife and the Spore River development, and heavy machinery to this northern mining area, will no longer have to wait at the entrance of the Mackenzie for favourable weather, but will be able to proceed with the assurance of good harbours near their route.

PLACEMENT PLANS: The Dominion Department of Labour, in cooperation with Provincial Ministers of Agriculture, is now working out a detailed plan for specialized placement of young women from the Displaced Persons Camps of Europe in Canadian farm homes as domestic workers, it was announced Tuesday by Arthur MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Labour.

The work of screening suitable applicants overseas for employment in Canadian farm homes has been undertaken by officials of the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources and assisted by representatives of the Department of Labour at the Displaced Persons Camps. These workers would probably be in Canada within six to ten weeks, Mr. MacNamara explained. The number to be brought to Canada would be determined by requests received from the Dominion-Provincial Farm Labour Committees.

Special plans for this project were forwarded recently to the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture for their consideration.

The movement of girls from Displaced Persons Camps to city homes in Canada had definitely been a success, Mr. MacNamara said, and in those provinces desiring to accept this new project, it had been decided to undertake placement of domestics in farm homes at least on an experimental basis.

JOINT ADMINISTRATION

"We believe that through the joint administration by the Dominion-Provincial Farm Labour Committee and the National Employment Service, successful placement of girls in farm homes can be accomplished", the Deputy Minister stated. "By using these two existing organizations, which have proven their worth in the

past, we will have the cooperation and counsel of the provinces and will obtain a successful administration of a plan requiring considerable care and judgment."

The selection of girls would be made with special regard to the fact that they were to be placed in farm homes and girls with a rural background would receive preference in selection.

Because of the special problems involved in connection with the placement of female workers on farms, it was thought necessary to depart somewhat from the ordinary procedure used in connection with the placement of agricultural workers. The following was decided upon:

1. Domestic workers from Displaced Persons Camps in Europe for employment on farms will not be sent forward to any province except as requested by the Dominion-Provincial Farm Labour Committee for the province.
2. A sub-Committee of the Dominion-Provincial Farm Labour Committee, for the province will be set up. This Committee will consist of a representative or representatives of a responsible women's organization, preferably a rural organization, the Regional Adviser on Women's Employment or another female officer designated by the National Employment Service and such other representation as the Dominion-Provincial Committee may decide upon.
3. The function of the sub-Committee will be to make plans for the reception and distribution of domestics for employment on Canadian farms, to examine all applications for help of this type and to decide which applications shall be approved, and to arrange for follow-up visits on the farms as soon as possible after placements have been made.
4. Farmers desiring help of this kind will complete an application form and file it with the nearest office of the National Employment Service or the agricultural representative in the district.
5. No placement shall be made until the application of the employer has been investigated by some competent official or a representative of a responsible women's organization and a report has been sent to the sub-Committee and the application has been approved by that Committee.

CAREFUL SCREENING

6. Workers brought to Canada under this arrangement will be carefully screened overseas for occupational suitability by representatives of the Department of Labour and for general acceptability as immigrants by the Immigration Branch, Department of National Health, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
7. Domestics selected for placement in Canada in farm homes give an undertaking to the Minister of Labour to remain in domestic employment for a period of one year.