

ICAO THIRD ASSEMBLY: Sardar Hardit Singh Malik, of India, was elected President of the International Civil Aviation Organization's Third Assembly, meeting in Montreal. Vice-presidents elected were Brigadier Hugo da Cunha Machado (Brazil); Ali Fuad Bey (Iraq); and Colonel Humberto Delgado (Portugal). Mr. R. Lebeau (Belgium) was chosen Chairman of the Assembly's Administrative Commission.

Mr. Malik, Indian High Commissioner to Canada, originally served with the Royal Flying Corps during World War I. After the war, he joined the Indian Civil Service and, among other posts, served as first Indian Trade Commissioner to the United States and Canada. Mr. Malik has represented India at many international meetings and was the leader of the Indian delegation at the International Trade Conference in Havana in 1947.

Air Brigadier Machado, of the Brazilian Air Force, is Chairman of the Brazil Research Commission in International Air Law.

Ali Fuad Bey is the Representative of Iraq on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization. Prior to taking up this position he was manager of the Basrah Airport, and represented his country at the Chicago Aviation Conference of 1944.

Colonel Delgado is the Representative of Portugal on the ICAO Council. Previous to this, he was the Director General of the Portuguese Secretariat for Civil Aeronautics, and was responsible for the establishment of Portuguese international air services.

Mr. Lebeau is Counsellor to the Belgian Embassy and a member of the Permanent Delegation of Belgium to the United Nations.

RAIL REVENUES, EXPENSES: Both operating revenues and expenses of Canadian railways, repeating the advances of earlier months this year, rose sharply in March over the corresponding month last year to reach new peaks for the month. The rise in operating expenses considerably exceeded the advance in revenues and both net operating revenue and operating income declined, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

Operating revenue for the month totalled \$74,325,000, an increase of \$6,219,000 or slightly more than nine per cent over March last year, while operating expenses jumped \$9,755,000 or 16 per cent to \$70,612,000 as compared with \$60,857,000 a year earlier. Net operating revenue declined in consequence to \$3,713,000 as compared with \$7,249,000 and, after allowance for tax accruals, hire of equipment and joint facilities rents, operating income amounted to the reduced figure of \$1,315,330 as against \$3,654,475 in March last year.

Freight revenues in the month improved 12.5 per cent over the previous March, aggregating \$61,610,000 compared with \$54,779,000. Revenue mileage rose 1.7 per cent, although revenue tonnage declined 8.6 per cent. Passenger

revenues declined as in previous months, dropping 12.6 per cent from \$6,574,000 to \$5,748,000, the number of revenue passengers carried decreasing to 2,796,313 from 3,308,022. Mail revenues improved two per cent and express was up six per cent.

MARCH GOLD OUTPUT: With increased output recorded for all producing provinces and territories, Canadian production of gold rose in March to its highest monthly point since March, 1943. According to the Bureau of Statistics, the month's total amounted to 342,677 fine ounces as compared with 307,608 in the preceding month and 287,708 in the corresponding month last year. Production for March, 1943, stood at 347,591 fine ounces.

WILDLIFE STUDY: A long term plan for special intensive studies of wildlife in the National Parks of Canada was announced on June 11 by the Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources, Dr. Keenleyside, on the occasion of his visit to Point Pelee National Park, Ont.

The Department of Mines and Resources, the Deputy Minister pointed out, is responsible for administration, conservation and management of all wildlife in Canada's twenty-six national parks. In order to ensure that its activities in this field shall be based on the most complete and current data available, the Department has decided to initiate an intensive survey of all the wild animals and plants in the parks.

This survey, which will be carried on by the Dominion Wildlife Service, with the co-operation of the National Parks Service and of specialists in the National Museum, the Geological Survey and the Department of Agriculture, will be concerned with all kinds of living things within the parks. It will include forests, flowering plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and insects. It will be no mere cataloguing of the plants and animals, a great deal of which has already been done, but will be concerned with the community of living things and with the manner in which the various forms of life affect one another. This will be what scientists term an ecological survey.

COST-OF-LIVING: Cost-of-living indexes for six of the eight regional cities recorded increases during April, while two moved slightly lower, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Firmer prices for foods were mainly responsible for the advances, although clothing, and home furnishings and services registered minor gains at a few centres. Lower fuel prices at Montreal and Saskatoon were sufficient to reduce the component indexes for these two centres. At Toronto, however, a reduction in fuel costs failed to overcome an increase in foods.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY: The 81st semi-annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society will be held in Ottawa from Sunday through Thursday, June 19-23, it was announced on June 11 by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson. The Society met previously at Ottawa in 1911 and 1929. The only other Canadian meeting was held at Toronto in 1935.

More than 100 Society members from astronomical centres in the United States and Canada will attend the meeting, which is being held in Ottawa at the invitation of Dr. C.S. Beals, Dominion Astronomer. United States members will come from points as distant as Pasadena, California. In addition to members of the staff of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, Canadians attending will include Dr. J.A. Pearce, Dominion Astrophysicist, and Dr. R.M. Petrie, Assistant Dominion Astrophysicist of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B.C., and representatives of the David Dunlap Observatory, University of Toronto.

All sessions for the presentation of papers will be held at the National Research Council Building on Sussex Street. Five papers, including one by Dr. Peter Millman, of the Observatory, will be delivered Tuesday afternoon, June 21, during a symposium on meteoric astronomy.

Dr. Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar, of Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago, at Williams Bay, Wisconsin, noted for his outstanding research work in astronomy and astrophysics, will deliver the Russell Lecture on Tuesday night at a public meeting to be held in the National Museum Building.

The Russell Lectureship was established in 1946 in honour of Professor Henry Norris Russell, of Princeton University. It is considered the most important astronomical lecture given on the North American Continent and the invitation to present it is the highest honour the American Astronomical Society can bestow.

Dr. Chandrasekhar, a native of Lahore, India, was educated at the University of Madras and at Cambridge, and has been on the staff of the University of Chicago since 1936.

During their stay in Ottawa, delegates will enjoy an informal tour of the gardens of the Dominion Experimental Farm, a garden party at the Dominion Observatory at which the Observatory and the Ottawa Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will be joint hosts, and tours of the Bureau of Mines, Department of Mines and Resources, and the Radio Field Station and the Mechanical Engineering Laboratories of the National Research Council.

I.L.O. ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Full participation of the International Labour Organization in the program of technical assistance for economic development recently proposed by the United Nations and the specialized agencies has been urged by I.L.O.'s Governing Body in a session at Geneva.

The Governing Body approved a proposal of the British Government delegate that the I.L.O.'s annual general conference which opened June 8 at Geneva take the following action:

1. Affirm the principle of full I.L.O. participation in the proposed program of technical assistance for economic development;
2. Request the Governing Body to examine proposal made by I.L.O. Director-General David A. Morse for I.L.O.'s share in the program;
3. Authorize the Governing Body to make interim arrangements, if necessary, to permit I.L.O. to undertake its part of the program and to obtain the funds required for it.

Only the Polish Government delegate voted against the motion.

The Governing Body, which has also been concerned with the question of forced labour and with plans for I.L.O. activities in the coming year, will resume its sittings at a convenient date during the annual conference. It is meeting under the chairmanship of Shamal-dhara Lall, of India.

U.S. - CANADA AIR AGREEMENT: The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Claxton, on June 11 made the following statement:

A paragraph in the column "On and off the record" in the MONTREAL GAZETTE of Saturday, June 11, contains the suggestion that in connection with the recent Civil Aviation Agreement between Canada and the United States, the United States Government secured from the Canadian Government a supplementary secret agreement to the effect that the United States would "take over the Canadian aviation picture in its entirety" in the event of war.

This is completely false. No such agreement has been made between Canada and the United States and the full details of all agreements reached in connection with the recent civil aviation discussions have been made public in the text of the Bilateral Agreement and the accompanying Exchange of Notes regarding civil use of U.S. military bases in Newfoundland.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: Under the heading, "What's New at the Trade Fair," the Trade Fair officials have released the following:

"A machine manufactured by the Bardet Co. of France and displayed by Harrington Tool & Die Co., that weighs boxes of sugar cubes, removes cubes if the weight is excessive, and glues on the box lids, all in one operation... Displayed by the same firm, a centrifuge for laboratory work that spins at 150,000 revolutions per minute, only 60,000 revolutions short of atomic power. A new industry is being established in Canada to manufacture these machines... An oil burner displayed by the American Heat Corporation of Canada Ltd.,