

Resources Dept. Surveys: Nine Geographical Bureau parties, with assignments ranging from the Arctic to the shores of the Great Lakes and the Interior Plateau of British Columbia, will carry out field investigations during the coming summer, it is announced by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

One party has already commenced work, three others will leave Ottawa early this month, and the remaining four are scheduled to start their investigations during the first part of July.

Transportation Commission: A study of the possibilities of railway nationalization was suggested to the Royal Commission on Transportation by the Saskatchewan Government on June 6 at Regina.

At its opening hearing in Saskatchewan Province, the Commission also received a Saskatchewan Government proposal for federal subsidies to aid certain uneconomic rail operations.

Both proposals were incorporated in an outline brief filed with the Commission some weeks ago and formally placed on the record at the June 6 hearing.

The Commission, in the early stages of a Canada-wide tour of investigation into all forms of federally-controlled transport, also heard Saskatchewan's Co-operatives Minister, L. F. McIntosh, call for greater co-ordination of Canada's carrier services.

Cost-Of-Living Up: Showing a slight upward movement for the second successive month, Canada's official cost-of-living index rose one-fifth of a point between April 1 and May 2, from 159.3 to 159.5. The March-April increase was one-tenth of a point, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

At the May 2 level, the index was 6.2 points above May last year, and one-tenth of a point below the peak figure of 159.6 touched three times -- at the first of October and November last year and January this year. From August, 1939 to May, 1949 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 58.2 per cent.

Unemployment Insurance: Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in April totalled 68,979 as compared with 103,402 in March and 59,265 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. At the end of the month there were 134,500 ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register compared with 185,800 at the end of March and 105,400 at April 31, 1948.

Motor Vehicle Sales: Sales of new motor vehicles in April showed a further advance on the gain recorded in March, rising 46 per cent in number and 56 per cent in value over the corresponding month last year. Sales in March were up 18 per cent in number and 29 per cent in value over March last year. As in March, the gain was due mainly to larger sales of passenger cars, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Wheat Stocks: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 26 amounted to 95,630,000 bushels, down 4,149,000 from the preceding week's total, but 39,114,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Across Canada: In the general election campaign, the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, campaigning in Quebec, has had to cancel two days' speeches because of a minor attack of laryngitis; the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party spoke at Carman, Man....The aircraft carrier "Magnificent", damaged when she grounded on a submerged rock off Nova Scotia's south shore Saturday, is to go into drydock for repairs,...Thirty-five Canadian seamen from five ships strike-bound in British ports, picketed the United States Embassy in London's Grosvenor Square....The Canadian Press is the basis for the foregoing items.