

(Continued from P. 1)

washers, mixers and ironers, juice extractors, and garbage disposal units.

The general effect of all these changes is to eliminate most of the outright prohibitions on imports. As originally drafted more than two years ago, the prohibited list applied to about \$150,000,000 of annual imports. The principal items that will still be on the prohibited list after July 1 will be pork and pork products, cut flowers, soft plastic sheeting, electric lighting fixtures and appliances, various kinds of ornaments, coin-operated amusement devices and vending machines and the so-called comic and pulp magazines. The total value of imports affected by the prohibited list will then be less than \$25,000,000 on the basis of 1946-47 trade figures. Imports subject to quotas will represent about \$200,000,000 on the basis of 1946-47 imports.

These reductions in the prohibited list will also have the effect of encouraging some additional imports from the United Kingdom and Western European countries.

Commenting further on these relaxations Mr. Abbott said that they were in line with the Government's policy of removing emergency import controls just as rapidly as the improvement in our exchange position warranted. While there had been substantial fluctuations during the year our exchange reserves had improved considerably by the end of 1949 and this enabled the present relaxations to be made. Further relaxations during the second half of 1950 would have to depend on the future course of events.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS: Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in December numbered 150,480, up over the November figure of 124,889, and above the 114,506 in December, 1948. Initial and renewal claims, representing mainly new cases of recorded unemployment, rose sharply to 139,406 from 114,888 in November and 105,939 a year ago.

As compared with December, 1948, increased claims were recorded in all Provinces except Prince Edward Island. Quebec's total was up from 36,028 to 50,494, Ontario from 29,641 to 41,453, British Columbia from 21,186 to 23,235, Nova Scotia from 6,442 to 8,159, Manitoba from 6,421 to 7,581, New Brunswick from 5,049 to 6,779, Alberta from 4,605 to 6,390, Saskatchewan from 4,153 to 5,303. Prince Edward Island fell from 981 to 964. Benefit claims in Newfoundland in December 1949 totalled 122.

In December, benefit payments amounted to \$7,181,001 for 3,066,888 compensated days as against \$5,048,373 for 2,178,130 days in November and \$3,592,155 for 1,687,804 days in December, 1948.

ICAO TRAINEE PROGRAMME: Five men and one woman have been chosen to take part in the third trainee programme of the International Civil Aviation Organization, according to an announcement by ICAO Secretary General Dr. Albert Roper.

All 56 member nations of ICAO were asked to submit nominations for this programme; the successful candidates will go to Montreal on 27 February and will spend a five-month period studying and taking part in the work of the organization. Upon completion of this period, the trainees will then return to their home countries and there will aid in maintaining liaison with ICAO.

The successful candidates are:

- Belgium:** Jean Van Bellingham, Student now under training at the UN Fuel and Energy Commission.
- Brazil:** Eurico Pacobahyba, Secretary to Brazilian Commission for International Air Navigation studies.
- Ceylon:** Dixon Kotelawala, Acting Aerodromes Officer.
- Egypt:** Badr El Din Galal, Chief, Air Transport Section, Department of Civil Aviation.
- Mexico:** Miss Maria Vivar Balderrama, Junior Assistant, Legal Department, Altos Hornos de Mexico, S.A.
- Portugal:** Manuel F.G. Madruga, Chief of Section, Department of Civil Aviation.

STAFF COLLEGE EXAMS: Next week will be a tough one for 138 Army captains and majors who will write the annual entrance examinations for the Canadian Army Staff College, Kingston, Ont. The examinations will commence February 14 and last almost a week, the final one being written February 17.

They culminate a year of intensive study in their own time by the officers. However, for the past two weeks, the majority have been on a course of full time study in preparation for the important tests.

A "pass mark" will qualify them for entrance to the Staff College but not necessarily mean they will be selected to attend. Each year only about 55 eligible officers are chosen. A very small number may be sent to similar colleges in Commonwealth countries on an exchange basis.

Embracing a wide range of subjects including current world affairs, military history, military law and the organization and principles of employment of all arms of the Service, the examination will be written at Army Headquarters in Ottawa and at the various Command and Area headquarters across the country. One officer, presently on overseas duty, will tackle his papers in England.