

MOBILE IONOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY: Canada's first mobile ionospheric observatory will be put into operation Monday, August 23 by the Defence Research Board on the railroad to Fort Churchill, it was announced August 19 by the Department of National Defence.

The new observatory, housed in a converted railway coach, is expected to be a vital link in an international chain of stations supplying information essential to the development of radio communication and radio navigation in the north.

Canada already has a number of ionospheric stations in operation in the north country but this is the first mobile observatory to be used in this important research work. The "lab" will operate under the direction of Mr. J. H. Meek of Defence Research Board headquarters in Ottawa, and will operate over the Hudson's Bay Railroad between Portage la Prairie and Churchill. One round-trip will be made every three months, in each of the four seasons of the year, with week-long stops going and coming at such intermediate points on the rail line as The Pas, Waboden, Pickwitonei, Gillam, Herchmer and Churchill.

The auroral (northern lights) zone, which covers all of northern Canada, is highly suitable for the study of ionospheric conditions because charged particles, emanating from the sun, are deflected closer to earth by the earth's magnetic field in this area. The charged particles come from sun spots which last year reached their highest point in 200 years of recording.

The new mobile ionospheric station will send radio beams as high as 200 miles above the earth. These are reflected by the ionosphere to the point of origin, and from the beams can be deduced required information about conditions in the upper regions. Based on this information, predictions can be made of future radio transmission conditions and selection of suitable frequencies for long distance radio communication is made easier.

The recordings of Canadian stations are coordinated with those of 63 other stations in various parts of the world, and from the mass of information are produced monthly predictions of useful radio frequencies and daily ionospheric storm warnings.

30,785 DISPLACED PERSONS: Figures released August 20 by the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources show that 30,785 Displaced Persons had arrived in Canada up to July 31.

Arrivals during April, May, June, and July totalled 16,535, an increase of more than 2,000 over the total of 14,250 for the entire twelve months of the fiscal year ended March 31, 1948.

Indicative of a speed-up in the movement of close relatives of residents of Canada was the announcement that 6,316 of these people had been welcomed since April 1, as compared

to a total of 5,042 for the previous twelve months. Total of close relatives arrivals as of July 31 was 11,358. Orphan children placed in homes throughout Canada numbered 710.

Those who arrived in group movements of workers in response to requests of industry totalled 18,717, broken down as follows: farmers, 2,244; family farm group, 744; woodworkers, 3,599; textile workers, 247; domestic married couples, 142; garment workers, 1,350; garment workers' dependants, 826; railway workers, 1,911; hydro workers, 1,666; building construction workers, 173; steel and foundry workers, 306; steel and foundry workers' dependants, 24; miners, 2,042; domestics, 3,443.

The racial origins as distinct from the nationality of the Displaced Persons now in Canada were the following: Croatian, 325; Czech, 141; Dutch, 1,706; Estonian, 965; German, 667; Hebrew, 3,782; Yugo-Slav, 814; Latvian, 1,894; Lithuanian, 3,508; Polish, 7,835; Russian, 869; Servian, 639; Swedish, 5; Ukrainian, 6,976; Greek, 13; Slovak, 47; Hungarian, 335; Roumanian, 196; Finnish, 8; French, 3; Turkish, 2; Austrian, 11; Bulgarian, 17; Dalmatian, 5; Italian, 9; Albanian, 7; Montenegrin, 3; Moravian, 1; Spanish, 1; Norwegian, 1.

LONDON EMPLOYMENT OFFICE: A branch office of the National Employment Service has been opened in London, England, according to an announcement August 20 by Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour.

This office will function for the present in the manner of a combined Regional and Local Office in Canada, Mr. Mitchell stated. The purpose of this office will be the counselling of intending emigrants to Canada and interviewing them in regard to job opportunities.

This office will be of great service to British emigrants by advising them if there is a current demand for their particular experience or skill. It will also advise what locality in Canada offers the best opportunity for their employment.

The fullest cooperation is being maintained with the United Kingdom Department of Labour and Employment Exchange. This is working out so well that, in some instances, requirements for certain types of skilled labour in Canada may be cleared through all local offices of the British Employment Exchange.

It is not the desire of the Canadian Government to attract needed personnel from British industry, the Minister pointed out, but where they can be spared we can often obtain craftsmen and technicians who may be badly needed in Canada.

The London Office will form an extension of the clearance system now operating in Canada. This system is used as a means of enlarging, when necessary, any particular labour recruiting area by circulating job opportunities to local employment offices outside the locality where the orders were first placed. It is

often an effective method of matching the worker with the job.

In addition, the London, England, branch will comprise a headquarters for specific and authentic information on all matters pertaining to employment in Canada.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AMENDMENTS: The recent amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940, which become effective on October 4, 1948, will not affect the present wage ceiling for insurable employees which now stands at \$3.120 a year, Arthur MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Labour, has stated.

In January, 1948, the wage ceiling for employees paid other than at an hourly, daily, piece or mileage rate was raised from \$2.400 a year to \$3.120 a year.

For employees paid on an hourly, daily, piece or mileage rate there is no ceiling. They are insured regardless of earnings.

Salaried employees paid at weekly, monthly, or annual rate are insured unless their earnings exceed \$3.120 a year. This scale is still in effect and is in no way affected by the recent amendments to the Act, Mr. MacNamara pointed out.

The Deputy Minister made this statement to clarify any misunderstanding which may have arisen among employers from the recent announcement regarding the increased benefits under the amendments, which set up another contributing class from among those already insured under the Act.

ARMY WEEK IN SEPTEMBER: Army Week will be held for the Canadian Army commencing Monday, September 20. Army camps and establishments across the country will hold "open house" to which the public will be invited. Army Headquarters has announced.

"The main purpose of Army Week is to acquaint the Canadian public with the function of the Canadian Army, and the activities of its professional soldiers and Reserve Force personnel", stated Maj. Gen. E. G. Weeks, C.B., CBE, M.C., M.M., Adjutant General.

The Army, from Halifax, N.S. to Whitehorse, Y.T., will present displays and exhibits, demonstrations with modern equipment such as radar and anti-aircraft artillery to the visitors.

"Above all, we want the Canadian people to meet the men of the Canadian Army; to see how they live and work, and to understand some of the constructive jobs they perform in their peacetime role. Army Week will provide the Army with the opportunity to entertain the Canadian public", the General added.

Army Week is being held this year for the first time since the formation of the new Active Force in 1946. In future, it will be held as an annual event.

HIGH LEVEL OF IMPORT TRADE: Canada's import trade was maintained at a high level in June, being valued at \$233,000,000 as compared with \$225,100,000 in the preceding month and \$231,100,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. During the first half of this year the aggregate was \$1,270,100,000 as against \$1,256,700,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Merchandise imports from the United States, however, continued the decline of preceding months from the levels of a year ago, falling to \$154,918,000 from last year's corresponding figure of \$174,669,000. This further decline reduced the total for the first half of 1948 to \$884,468,000 as compared with \$880,939,000 in the similar period of 1947, a decrease of almost 10 per cent.

Purchases from the United Kingdom again increased in June, rising to \$56,003,000 from the June 1947 total of \$18,118,000, and in the first six months of this year to \$139,130,000 from \$84,635,000. Purchases from Latin American countries in the month rose to \$19,681,000 from \$12,872,000 a year ago, and in the six-month period to \$107,071,000 from \$70,106,000.

Imports from Europe were down both in the month and in the cumulative period. The month's total for the area was \$5,767,000 as compared with \$10,180,000, and for the six months, \$28,061,000 as against \$31,551,000.

Imports from India and Pakistan together rose from \$2,752,000 in June last year to \$8,229,000, Trinidad and Tobago from \$304,000 to \$1,023,000, British Guiana from \$881,000 to \$1,157,000, Gold Coast from nil to \$1,620,000, Nigeria from \$1,093,000 to \$1,422,000, Ceylon from \$1,270,000 to \$1,693,000, British Malaya from \$1,582,000 to \$1,891,000, New Zealand from \$652,000 to \$1,541,000. Imports from Australia fell from \$1,509,000 to \$1,443,000, Belgium from \$2,268,000 to \$1,906,000 and Philippine Islands from \$1,320,000 to \$1,105,000.

Among the commodity groups, there was a sharp advance in non-metallic minerals and moderate gains in agricultural and vegetable products and iron and products. The remaining groups registering declines of varying degree.

The non-metallic minerals group rose from \$39,185,000 in June last year to \$57,646,000, and in the six months from \$191,756,000 to \$262,244,000. In June, imports of coal, crude petroleum and petroleum products accounted for most of the advance. The agricultural group advanced from \$30,160,000 in June last year to \$33,091,000, with declines in fruits and vegetables, and advances in sugar and products, cocoa and chocolate, coffee and chicory, tea, vegetable oils and rubber. Group total for the six months was \$165,559,000 against \$173,577,000.

The fibres and textiles group fell from \$36,582,000 in June last year to \$29,685,000, and in the six months from \$220,253,000 to