

MERGING OF RADIO SYSTEMS: On the Union of Newfoundland with Canada the public broadcasting system of Newfoundland will be merged with the national system of Canada, it was announced on March 25 by A.D. Dinton, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland, which has a constitution quite similar to that of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, now operates stations at St. John's, Gander, and Corner Brook, and is preparing the establishment of a station at Grand Falls. Under the Terms of Union, the staff and facilities of the Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland will be taken over by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. They will form the Newfoundland region of the national system of Canada.

Preparations are under way for the setting up of network connections between the Newfoundland stations and the rest of the system. The Trans-Canada network service of the CBC is at present carried by land line as far as Sydney, Nova Scotia. To link with Newfoundland it will be necessary to establish network service by Department of Transport radio relay across Cabot Strait to near Port aux Basques; and from there by telegraph land line via Corner Brook, Grand Falls, and Gander, to St. John's. Facilities for such service have not been available previously, but it is expected they will be ready for use by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation at the time of Union.

NETWORK CONNECTIONS

Establishment of network connections will make it possible for national Trans-Canada service to be broadcast directly on Newfoundland stations, and for programs from Newfoundland to be carried to the rest of Canada. The network service will also provide a new regular connection between the stations within Newfoundland.

The geographical distribution of the Newfoundland population, many of whom live in small settlements, without other regular communication, gives broadcasting a special importance. It provides services especially of information, often in detailed form, which are not needed in other areas. The Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland has developed some broadcasting services which are of a kind to be especially valuable to Newfoundlanders.

It will be the policy of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to disturb as little as possible existing programs which are especially appreciated by them. The Newfoundland region of the system will have considerable latitude in meeting special needs and tastes of Newfoundlanders in broadcasting. At the same time, after Union the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation hopes to be able to add considerably to the broadcasting service available, particularly by network programs from the rest of

the country. Merging of the two systems will also mean that some programs from Newfoundland will be heard by listeners all across Canada. In this way it is hoped that broadcasting will help the mutual understanding between the people of Newfoundland and those of the other regions.

BRIG. MALONE TRANSFERRED: Brig. R.S. Malone, OBE, 39, of Winnipeg, has been transferred to the Supplementary Reserve on relinquishing command of the 16th Infantry Brigade, Reserve Force, Army Headquarters has announced.

No successor to Brig. Malone has yet been appointed but Lt.-Col. F.D. Adams, DSO, 41, present officer commanding the Fort Garry Horse (10th Armoured Regt.) has been detailed to command the brigade in a temporary capacity while retaining command of his own regiment.

Brig. Malone, a native of Owen Sound and former resident of Toronto, saw service in Sicily with the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade and was severely wounded at Leone Forte when a mine exploded under his jeep. He was back in action for the Italy assault, this time as personal liaison officer to General (now Field Marshal) Montgomery.

During the winter campaign he took charge of Canadian Army Public Relations in the Italian theatre and founded the first edition of the Canadian Army newspaper, "The Maple Leaf." Subsequently he was recalled to the United Kingdom to organize public relations services for the campaign in Northwest Europe, and served through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany. For his services he was awarded the O.B.E.

On his return to Canada he became Director of Public Relations at Army Headquarters and planned the P.R. services for the projected Pacific campaign against the Japanese, making a trip to the Phillipines for this purpose. When the Japs stopped fighting he proceeded to Japan and was aboard the USS Missouri when the surrender documents were signed.

In civil life Brig. Malone is an executive of the Sifton chain of newspapers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL: Eighteen more hospitals in Ontario will be provided with special x-ray equipment enabling them to check for tuberculosis every person admitted to hospital.

This was announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin who said that \$140,000 from the federal health grants had been allotted for this project.

Several months ago \$310,000 was allocated for the purchase of x-ray equipment for the province's larger hospitals. The additional amount will permit purchase of the required apparatus for all hospitals having 1,200 or more admissions annually.

Cost of the equipment will be charged against the \$740,751, allotted to Ontario under the federal health plan for the extension of tuberculosis control measures, Mr. Martin said.

BUILDING MATERIALS INDEX: A residential building materials price index has been developed by the Bureau of Statistics to meet the need for a more precise measurement of this important part of housing costs. This new index, which is on the 1935-39 base, measures the change in price levels of only those materials required in residential construction. It is an average measurement for Canada as a whole.

This new composite index reached a peak annual average figure of 217.5 for 1948, comparing with 180.4 in 1947, and 154.5 in 1946. At the same time the index number of rates of wages in the construction trades advanced to 182.2 from 160.2 in 1947 and 148.7 in 1946.

There are 90 price series in the new index and these have been classified into nine main groups. All nine groups advanced during 1948. The figure for cement, sand and gravel rose from 109.7 in 1947 to 122.3; brick, tile and stone from 133.4 to 143.1; lumber and its products from 242.0 to 305.8; lath, plaster and insulation from 107.3 to 116.7; roofing materials from 172.3 to 201.6; paint and glass from 169.6 to 183.1; plumbing and heating equipment from 145.2 to 168.3; electrical equipment and fixtures from 147.4 to 169.8; and other materials from 143.0 to 162.3.

MANUFACTURING INVENTORIES: Total value of inventories held by manufacturing industries at the end of January appears to be at approximately the same level as at the end of December, the preliminary index on the base 1947=100, standing at 128.3. Revised figures show a small rise during December instead of the slight decline indicated by preliminary returns published earlier, reports the Bureau of Statistics.

Of the main industry groupings, inventories in the consumers' goods industries appear to have decreased in value to a small extent. Inventories in the capital goods industries have increased, after a large drop in December, and the producers' goods inventories show a very slight rise. The construction goods industries appear to have experienced a four-point drop in the inventory value index.

A breakdown of the larger groupings show that, in the consumers' goods group, inventories of durable consumers' goods industries have fallen slightly. The index of stocks in the food industries fell by eight points, due to declines -- most of which follow seasonal trends -- in the fruit and vegetable preparations industry, sugar refineries, dairy factories, and in the fish curing and packing, and slaughtering and meat packing industries.

The tobacco and beverage industry shows a seasonal rise in inventory holdings, while stocks in the petroleum products industry and feed and flour mills have decreased. In the semi-durable consumers' goods groups, every large industry -- rubber, clothing, leather footwear, textiles and leather tanneries -- showed a slight rise in inventory values. The majority of industries in the durable consumers' goods group also show small increases, with the exception of the electrical apparatus and supplies industry, where a 10-point drop in the index is indicated.

In the capital goods industries, the rise in inventory holdings was due to comparatively large increases in the shipbuilding and aircraft industries, which more than offset a drop in the railway rolling stock industry. In the producers' goods the coke and gas industry showed a large fall in inventory values, but all other industries increased their holdings to some extent.

In the construction goods group, stocks held in the cement industry have increased seasonally, while in all other industries they appear to have decreased slightly.

COPPER AND NICKEL: Production of new primary copper in January showed a slight decline from the December total, but advanced over the figure for the corresponding month in 1948, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The month's output amounted to 20,805 tons as compared with 20,936 in December and 20,447 in January last year.

Nickel output in January showed a similar trend, amounting to, 11,180 tons as compared with 13,028 in the preceding month, and 10,774 in the same month a year earlier.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS: The Bureau of Statistics has issued a bulletin giving the national accounts for the year 1948 on the detailed basis first published in "National Accounts, Income and Expenditure, 1938-1947" (November, 1948). The current publication contains revisions of earlier estimates for 1947 and 1948.

Table I of this publication gives the summary figures of national income, gross national product and expenditure, and their components. Tables II to V inclusive show transactions for the four main parts or sectors of the economy: the business sector, the personal sector, the government sector and the non-residents' (rest of the world) sector. The sources and disposition of investment income and private saving for all sectors combined as summarized in tables VI and VII.

Two tables have been included as appendices which show the distribution by provinces of salaries, wages and supplementary labour income, and of net income of agriculture and other unincorporated business, for the years 1938-47.