

ICAO COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION: The continuing growth of international air travel, which has brought with it an increasing necessity for communication between aircraft in flight and ground stations, has produced a serious scarcity of the radio frequencies used in such communication, and has made it necessary to redraft the world pattern of frequency allotment. A draft allotment plan for the international air routes of the 51 nations which are members of the International Civil Aviation Organization will be carefully examined by technical experts at the Third Session of the ICAO Communications Division which began in Montreal on January 11. The draft plan was originally prepared at a conference of the international telecommunications Union, United Nations specialized agency responsible for allocation of all radio channels, which has invited ICAO's help in completing a system to enable civil aviation to get the greatest possible service from the frequencies which are available.

First steps in the allocation program were taken at New Delhi, India, last November, when an ICAO regional meeting coordinated frequency requirements for Southeast Asia. A European frequency meeting is being held in Montreal concurrently with the Communications Division session, and another ICAO regional meeting in London next March will study and coordinate the frequency requirements for the Middle East and African-Indian Ocean areas. The results of these meetings will be consolidated for consideration by the Organization's Air Navigation Commission and Council, and will then be transmitted to the International Telecommunications Union before the end of June 1949.

Only 149 radio channels in the high frequency bands are available for exclusive use of civil aviation on a world-wide basis. During daylight hours a number of transmitting stations can operate on the same frequency without interference, providing that they are sufficiently far away from each other, but at night, when radio signals travel much further, stations working on the same frequency channel are likely to interfere seriously with one another even when they are far apart. Limited radio spectrum space and rapidly developing civil aviation make planning extremely difficult, and careful coordination is necessary to ensure that the international air services of ICAO's 51 member nations make the best use of what is available.

MCNAB APPOINTMENT: The appointment of Group Captain Ernest A. McNab, OBE, DFC, of Regina, Sask., as Director of Personnel Administration at Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa, was announced January 10 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton. G/C McNab was previously Senior Air Staff Officer, North West Air Command, Edmonton.

1949 WORLD WHEAT OUTLOOK: Substantial wheat supplies are a distinct possibility for 1949, observes the Bureau of Statistics in its monthly review of the world wheat situation, but adverse weather in the large producing areas could easily change the outlook.

Weather has already taken its toll of the current wheat harvest in Argentina, where severe November frosts and prolonged drought in some provinces have reduced crop estimates from the 180-million-bushel level to around 150 million bushels down some 100 million from the previous harvest. Satisfactory maturing weather in Australia has favoured the harvest of a crop now estimated at about 190 million bushels -- some 30 million below last year's crop but still 20 million above the 1935-39 average. Both Argentina and Australia have moderate carry-overs of old grain but, despite this, it is apparent that the contribution of both these countries to world trade during 1949 is likely to be less than in 1948.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

With the bulk of the wheat crops in the Northern Hemisphere not ready for harvest until midsummer, any comments about probable production must be in the nature of very tentative forecasts. In Canada it is considered likely that some increase in spring wheat planting may occur in the Prairie Provinces. The minimum initial payment to farmers (\$1.55 per bushel) is known and with decreased prices prevailing for flaxseed and rye a significant diversion of acreage from these crops to wheat may be anticipated. Again, western Canada experienced one of the driest autumn seasons on record, and while precipitation and other weather conditions during the growing season are the dominant factors, the shortage of fall moisture and its possible adverse effects on spring seeding and germination cannot be overlooked. A dry spring may encourage sowings of wheat at the expense of coarse grains, since that crop can withstand drought to a greater extent than other cereals. However, should serious drought conditions persist throughout the seeding season increased summer fallow acreages would probably curtail any tendency toward a large increase in wheat seedings. Unsatisfactory fall seeding weather has resulted in an estimated decline of 19 per cent or 175,000 acres in the acreage seeded to fall wheat in the province of Ontario.

The largest addition to world wheat supplies in 1949 may again come from the United States. On December 20 the Crop Reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture reported that the acreage of winter wheat seeded for all purposes is estimated at 61,370,000 acres, more than five per cent larger than last year's record of 58,161,000 acres. The estimated acreage is one-fourth greater than the 10-year average of 47,684,000 acres. On the basis of December 1 conditions, the 1949

winter wheat crop is forecast at 965 million bushels. Should such a crop be realized and an average United States spring wheat crop also be harvested total 1949 wheat production in the United States would for the third year in succession exceed one and a quarter billion bushels.

While few official estimates are available from wheat importing countries, trade advices from Europe indicate that fall wheat sowings in several countries have exceeded or equalled those of a year ago. Weather has favoured fall seeding and germination, and the outlook in areas reported upon is quite generally optimistic.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Under the heading, "Industrial Development Program," in an article prepared for the current issue of "Public Affairs," the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, writes as follows:

"The question has been put to me: Has the Canadian Government a long-term industrial development program? The answer is: yes. Our program, though, may be less distinct and publicized than that of some other countries. We do not tie our program of industrialization to a particular period of time like some of the four- or five-year plans which have become so fashionable today.

Our program is a continuing one because we consider further industrialization of the Canadian economy as one of the important factors contributing to a continuing high level of employment and income, with which a rising standard of living of the Canadian people is intimately associated. To this end we are devoting all the means at our disposal. In formulating our economic policies we are guided by the principles which are best suited to the Canadian environment and which will strengthen the democratic institutions of this country. There are four principles underlying our industrial development program.

"(1) Canada is a free enterprise economy and the initiative for industrial expansion rests with private individuals and firms.

"(2) The Government will, through its policies, endeavour to create a climate within which private initiative thrives and industrial expansion is encouraged.

"(3) The Government will take the initiative and do what it can to coordinate the efforts of governmental, business and other interested groups in achieving full and effective utilization of industrial expansion in the interests of all citizens in the country.

"(4) If industrial expansion and economic development is hampered by the lack of initiative the Government will, where the national interest demands, take appropriate action."

RADIO STATION CFHR: Radio station CFHR, newest of the Canadian Army's six radio broadcasting stations in the far north, is now in operation at Hay River, Northwest Territories, Army Headquarters announced on January 11.

Licensed as a 100-watt station by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CFHR takes its place with four other stations of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals' Northwest Territories and Yukon Radio System in presenting entertainment for military personnel and civilians in isolated northern regions.

Already in successful operation are stations at Whitehorse, Dawson City, Aklavik and Norman Wells. Another station at Fort Churchill, although serving the north, is not actually part of the system.

The new station operates on a frequency of 1,230 kilocycles and has an effective range of 200 miles.

EMPLOYMENT RECORD: Industrial employment and payrolls both reached record levels at the beginning of November, according to data received by the Bureau of Statistics from 19,488 establishments in the eight major industrial divisions. As compared with October 1, the gain in employment was 0.1 per cent, accompanied by a rise of 0.9 per cent in the weekly salaries and wages.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the general index number of employment in the eight leading industries at the beginning of November was 203.5 as compared with 203.3 at October 1, and 197.8 at November 1, 1947. As compared with November 1, 1947, there was an increase of 2.9 per cent, accompanied by that of 14.8 per cent in the index of payrolls. Both indexes were at all-time maximums. The indicated weekly earnings averaged \$42.16 as compared with \$41.80 at October 1, and \$37.79 at November 1, 1947.

Improvement over October 1 was recorded in logging, mining and trade, in which recorded employment rose by 19.6 per cent, 0.7 per cent and 2.6 per cent, respectively. The trend in the remaining major industrial classes was downward. The percentage losses varied from 2.4 per cent in construction and 3.8 per cent in the service industries for which data are available, to 0.8 per cent in communications and 0.9 per cent in manufacturing. Within the last-named group, there were marked increases in the textile division, with smaller advances in the paper product, printing and publishing, rubber, electrical apparatus, miscellaneous manufactured product and some other industries.

Lumber and pulp and paper mills, vegetable food-processing and iron and steel plants, however, showed curtailment, which in some cases was seasonal. The seasonal factor also influenced the changes in many other industries.