

Hudson's Bay Company, the Anglican Church and the Catholic Church, Commissioner C.W. Harvison of the RCMP and Dr. P.E. Moore, Director, Indian and Northern Health Services, Department of National Health and Welfare.

Eskimos attending the meeting were David Haniliak, Cambridge Bay, David Panioyakak, Cambridge Bay (representing DEW line workers), Osawetok, Cape Dorset, and Anawakalook, Frobisher Bay.

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VISIT OF ICELANDIC PRESIDENT

Prime Minister Diefenbaker recently announced that President Asgeir Asgeirsson of Iceland had accepted an invitation from the Canadian Government to visit Canada in September of this year. President Asgeirsson, who will be accompanied by his wife, will also visit Manitoba as the guest of the Manitoba Government and will thus have an opportunity to meet with members of the Icelandic-Canadian community in that province. After the official visit President and Mrs. Asgeirsson may also visit other areas in which there are communities of Icelandic origin.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES

Consumer prices increased 0.2 per cent from 128.9 to 129.1 during February and March 1961, as measured by a revised consumer price index based on 1957 rather than 1947-48 expenditure patterns. Increases in the housing and clothing indexes offset decreases in the transportation, health and personal-care, and recreation-and-reading indexes. The food and tobacco-and-alcohol indexes were unchanged.

The food index was unchanged at 124.0. Lower prices were reported for beef, poultry, canned salmon, powdered skim milk, coffee, cheese, grapefruit, fresh tomatoes, lettuce and celery. There price decreases were balanced by higher prices for eggs, pork, fats and a number of other fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly apples and carrots.

HOUSEHOLD PRICES

The housing index rose 0.1 per cent, from 133.1 to 133.2, reflecting a small increase in the household-operation index. The shelter index was unchanged. In the household-operation group prices were higher for fuel oil and furniture but price decreases occurred for some items of household supplies. In shelter, both the rent and home-ownership indexes were unchanged.

The clothing index increased 0.3 per cent from 111.5 to 111.8 as a result of higher prices for women's and children's wear, footwear and piece goods. Price decreases were reported for some clothing services, while men's wear and jewellery indexes were unchanged.

COSTS OF TRANSPORTATION

The transportation index declined 0.1 per cent, from 141.1 to 141.0, with a decrease in the automobile-operation index outweighing an increase in the local-transportation index. The travel index, covering train, bus and plane fares, was unchanged. In the automobile-operation group, prices were lower for new passenger cars, body repairs and brake relining but gasoline, tire and battery prices were up. Street-car and bus fares in local transportation were higher in several cities.

The slight decline of 0.2 per cent in the health and personal-care index, from 154.6 to 154.4, resulted entirely from lower prices for some personal-care items, as the health care index was unchanged. The recreation-and-reading index declined 0.1 per cent, from 146.7 to 146.6, reflecting a decrease in the recreation index resulting from lower prices for bicycles. The reading index was unchanged. The tobacco and alcohol index was unchanged at 115.7.

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ENVOY TO SIERRA LEONE

The appointment has been announced of Mr. T. LeM. Carter as High Commissioner for Canada in Sierra Leone. Mr. Carter, who is at present High Commissioner for Canada in Nigeria, will be concurrently accredited to the Government of Sierra Leone and will continue to reside in Lagos, Nigeria. He will visit Sierra Leone regularly and frequently. Sierra Leone will become independent on April 27, 1961. Its admission to the Commonwealth was unanimously approved during the last conference of the Commonwealth prime ministers.

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ECIC REPORT

Mr. George Hees, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, recently tabled in the House of Commons the annual report of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, which indicates that exports valued at \$63.5 million were insured in 1960. This is an increase of \$16 million, or 34 per cent, over 1959. In addition, goods valued at \$38.2 million were insured by authority of Section 21, under which the Consolidated Revenue Fund, not the Corporation, carries the risk.

Since the establishment of the Corporation in 1945, a total of \$920 million of export sales have been insured. It has paid out in claims to Canadian exporters a total of \$10.3 million, of which \$7.4 million have been recovered.

The excess of premium income over expenses and policy-holders' claims amounted to \$422,196 for the year, and \$1,155,926 from the inception of the Corporation.

There were 247 policies current at the end of 1960, which is the largest number in force