

COLOMBO PLAN COMMITTEE: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, announced on September 10 that the Canadian delegation to the Fifth Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan will be composed as follows:

Chairman: Mr. James Sinclair, Minister of Fisheries.

Alternate: Mr. Escott Reid, High Commissioner for Canada in India.

Advisers: Mr. J.J. Deutsch, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance; Mr. A.E. Ritchie, Department of External Affairs.

The delegation will also include one officer from each of the Canadian missions in Karachi, New Delhi, and Colombo.

The meeting of officials will open in New Delhi on September 28 and the Ministerial Meeting of the Committee will begin on October 13.

All members of the Consultative Committee are expected to attend the forthcoming meeting, including representatives of the Governments of Australia, Burma, Ceylon, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaya, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam. Observers from Thailand, The Philippines, the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East have been invited to attend.

* * * *

CIVIL DEFENCE CONVOY: To impress on Canadians the importance of preparedness in peace and war, a large civil defence convoy will travel from coast to coast and back this Fall, staging civil defence shows in key cities. Bearing the slogan "On Guard, Canada" the convoy and shows will constitute the most extensive public information project yet undertaken to alert the country and to develop general awareness of Canada's civil defence programme.

Seven huge tractor-trailers, and accompanying vehicles, including a three-ton truck bearing a self-contained power plant and station wagons for personnel and accessories will make up a colourful fleet which is to cover more than 10,000 miles, most of it via the Trans-Canada Highway.

The federal co-ordinator, Maj.-Gen. F.F. Worthington, said that in its tour from Halifax to Vancouver, the convoy will set up exhibitions of civil defence display materials which the tractor-trailers will carry, in ten important centres. Arrival of the convoy will be the occasion for special civil defence exercises in those cities, with municipal and provincial civil defence organizations co-operating in presenting its message to their peoples.

GRAIN POOL PAYMENTS: The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, announced on September 11 that the Canadian Wheat Board will distribute \$100,000,000 this fall in the form of an interim payment on the 1952-53 wheat pool and final payments on the 1952-53 oats and barley pools. The payments will commence on October 1, and will be completed before the end of the year.

This decision followed discussions in Ottawa between the Minister and members of the Canadian Wheat Board, during which consideration was given to the impact of the harvesting of the third successive bumper grain crop in the Prairie Provinces and producers' delivery problems resulting from current country elevator congestion.

Referring to wheat, Mr. Howe stated that producers had delivered an all time record of 533 million bushels of wheat to the Board during the crop year 1952-53. In spite of very large sales and exports, the Board had a substantial carry-over of old crop wheat on July 31, 1953. It was felt that, until these stocks of old crop wheat were considerably reduced, the 1952-53 wheat pool should not be closed out. On the other hand, the Board had a substantial cash surplus arising from its 1952-53 operations and it was therefore decided that an interim wheat payment would be made immediately. The interim payment will be 12 cents per bushel on all grades of wheat delivered to the Board by producers between August 1, 1952 and July 31, 1953. This interim payment will involve the distribution of about \$64,000,000 to Western producers.

It is expected that the 1952-53 wheat pool can be closed early in 1954 and a final wheat payment will be made at that time.

* * * *

NATIONAL PARKS RECORD: Canada's national parks, which in 1952 set a new record of more than 2,500,000 visitors in a single year, are well on the way towards even higher figures for 1953. From April 1 to July 31 this year the parks had a grand total of 1,633,131 visitors, or 192,452 more than the 1952 figure of 1,440,679. Greatest numerical gains were recorded at Point Pelee National Park, Ontario (52,847 more visitors); Elk Island National Park, Alberta (41,162 more) and Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba (37,807 more).

* * * *

INVENTORIES HIGHER: Total value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturers at the end of June was \$3,911,400,000, up slightly from May's \$3,888,300,000, and six per cent above last year's June value of \$3,689,600,000. The rise since the beginning of the year was two per cent.