

(C.W.B. July 8, 1949)

ARCTIC SUPPLIES: Laden with approximately 700 tons of supplies for Government Arctic stations in the Hudson Bay and Strait, the Department of Transport Icebreaker, the C.G.S. "N.B. McLean", on July 4 sailed from Quebec City to undertake annual duties of opening navigation in these northern waters. The powerful icebreaker has a heavy itinerary which will keep her fully occupied until late October of this year or when the last Europe-bound vessel passes through the Strait.

The 700 tons of cargo carried by the "N.B. McLean" this year will include a four-room prefabricated house which is being taken to Resolute Island and will be erected there to replace the one which was burnt down February of this year. This is one reason for the early departure this year of the "McLean" and the engineers aboard expect to have a new radio station completely built to be ready for guiding the first Churchill-bound vessel from Europe. The "McLean" will unload the new house and radio equipment and proceed to Cape Hope's Advance, returning to Resolute Island in one week's time for calibrating and checking direction finding frequencies of the newly erected station.

Also included in the supplies carried by the Department of Transport icebreaker will be coal and other freight for various Missions in the north, and also large stocks of radio replacement equipment, mail, provisions, medical supplies, and miscellaneous articles, including personal belongings of radio and meteorological officials stationed at the outlying posts.

NEW PROMOTION PLAN: Reserve Force officers who saw active service during the Second World War shall be automatically qualified for one rank higher up to and including the rank of colonel without writing professional tests, it has been announced at Army Headquarters.

These officers, the announcement added, must be appointed to a Reserve Force unit within three years of ceasing to be on active service or by June 30, 1950, whichever is the later date.

After ceasing to be on active service he must have been appointed to the Reserve Force, transferred to the Supplementary Reserve or been retired from the Canadian Army for reasons other than misconduct or inefficiency.

Such automatic promotion will apply when the officer enlists in a Reserve Force unit in the same corps with which he saw active service.

PILOT TRAINING: Reductions in the number of examinations and in the time spent in ground school attendance in student pilot training courses, was announced on July 4 by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. The Minister stated that "experience gained during the first six-months of operation of the Government's scheme of assistance to civil flying

training has led to the introduction of improvements which should result in an even more enthusiastic reception of the scheme than has already been realized."

The Canadian Government's student pilot training scheme was designed to conform with the high standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization and has been in operation since the beginning of the year. During the first six-month trial period, operation of the scheme has been closely watched by officers of the Air Services Branch of the Department of Transport. As a result of recommendations for the simplification of the training scheme, made by District Controllers of Air Services and Inspectors of Air Regulations, the Department of Transport has introduced improvements which will make it easier for the student pilot to take the training course necessary to obtaining a Private Pilot's licence.

APPROVAL ACCORDED

A Department of Transport announcement states that the improved Student Pilot Training scheme has been devised with the co-operation and approval of the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association and the Air Industry and Transport Association. The announcement says:-

"The most significant change concerns the written examinations for Private Pilot licences. The number of these examinations have been reduced from five to three and, without reduction in the standard, the time required to complete these papers has been reduced to four hours and fifteen minutes.

"The hours of Ground School attendance have been set at a minimum of ten hours providing this attendance is supplemented by satisfactory lecture notes made available by the school for home study. The Private Pilot's licence which more than meets the improved standards announced by the International Civil Aviation Organization will ensure that a student has received adequate training to a high standard consistent with safety."

Under the improved program of student pilot training which is administered by the Air Services Branch of the Department of Transport, the Government financial grants are maintained whereby one hundred dollars is paid to each approved flying club or school for each qualified pilot turned out, and also one hundred dollars is payable to each student upon his or her qualifying for Private Pilot's licence from the Department. A further cash benefit in the amount of one hundred dollars is available under the Student Pilot Training scheme to any trainee who meets R.C.A.F. service qualifications and joins either the R.C.A.F. reserve or the R.C.A.F. auxiliary.

LIVING COSTS AT NEW PEAK: The Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 159.5 to 160.5 between May 2 and June 1. The increase established a new peak for the index and placed it 0.9 points, above the previous

high of 159.6 recorded for October and November 1948, and January, 1949.

The May-June advance was entirely attributable to a rise in the food index of 3.4 points to 202.9. This was accounted for by a further seasonal rise in meats combined with a number of other increases, the most important of which were fresh vegetables and oranges.

The indexes of home furnishings and services and fuel and light moved contrary to the total index, both declining 0.4 points to 167.7 and 128.7, respectively. Clothing remained unchanged at 183.3 as did miscellaneous at 128.4. In both of these groups scattered small increases and decreases balanced each other. The rent index remained at 122.4. June rent survey results now being tabulated will be incorporated in the cost-of-living index for July 2.

SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS: Security transactions between Canada and other countries in April resulted in a sales balance of \$4,200,000, the largest since November, 1946. Total transactions in the month amounted to \$38,600,000, the highest monthly total in the current year, but only slightly higher than the monthly average of \$34,800,000 in 1948.

Transactions during the first four months of the year resulted in net sales in each month but February. The cumulative sales balance at the end of April was \$4,100,000, contrasting with purchase balances of \$6,400,000 and \$5,000,000 in the same periods of 1948 and 1947.

The sales balance in April was principally due to trade with the United States, in which there was an excess of sales over purchases of \$3,900,000. The most prominent transactions were sales of United States stocks and Canadian municipal bonds and repurchases of Canadian stocks.

Sales to the United Kingdom in April increased \$400,000, while purchases remained unchanged from the preceding month, resulting in a sales balance of \$100,000. The total value of trade with other countries remained unchanged from March, while sales exceeded purchases by \$200,000.

Sales to all countries in April were valued at \$21,400,000 as compared with \$14,600,000 in March and \$19,000,000 in April last year, while the purchases from all countries totalled \$17,200,000 compared with \$13,800,000 in March and \$20,400,000 in April last year.

In the four months ending April, sales to all countries aggregated \$65,700,000 compared with \$64,100,000 in the similar period of 1948, and the purchases, \$61,600,000 as compared with \$70,500,000.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS: Canadian production of refined petroleum products continued to move up in March, the month's output rising to 5,719,000 barrels compared with 5,251,500 in

the corresponding month last year, an increase of nine per cent. First-quarter output aggregated 17,847,000 barrels as against 16,109,500 a year earlier, a gain of 10.7 per cent.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UP: Residential building in Canada rose sharply during the first four months this year with completions and starts both showing substantial gains over the same period last year. There were 25,100 dwelling units completed in the period, an increase of 6,800 or 37 per cent over the same period of 1948, according to estimates by the Bureau of Statistics. This gain is due to the high carry-over of houses under construction at the end of 1948. Starts were also made on 16,900 dwelling units in the first four months of this year, an increase of 12.7 per cent over the same period of 1948.

The number of units under construction at the end of April was 48,100 compared with 56,500 at January 1. Ontario led the provinces with a total of 18,600 units under construction at the end of April, followed by Quebec with 12,000, British Columbia 6,900, Alberta 4,000, Nova Scotia 2,100, Manitoba 1,900, Saskatchewan 1,600, New Brunswick 800, and Prince Edward Island 100. Among the larger metropolitan areas, there were close to 8,000 units under construction in Montreal, 4,800 in Toronto, 4,000 in Vancouver, 1,600 in Winnipeg, 1,100 in Hamilton, 850 in Victoria and 820 in London.

In April, 7,300 units were completed compared with 6,700 in the corresponding month last year, while starts were made on 8,466 units compared with 8,274 a year ago. The average length of time required to build the dwelling units completed in April was 7.9 months, unchanged from the March figure.

The number of dwelling units completed in the first four months of 1949 by regions, figures for the same period of 1948 being in brackets: Maritimes, 1,573 (773); Quebec, 6,778 (4,865); Ontario, 8,725 (6,806); Prairie Provinces, 4,748 (2,817); British Columbia, 3,253 (3,037).

BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING: Experiments aimed at increasing the commercial catch of the bluefin tuna which in great numbers, each year, visit the south coast of Nova Scotia, will be resumed in 1949 by federal Fisheries Research Board scientists of the Atlantic Biological Station, St. Andrews, N.B.

The bluefin tuna has in recent years increased in popularity both as a sport fish for angling and as a commercial food fish but the trap-nets, harpoons and baited surface trawls which are used are unable to meet the demands of the canning industry.

The commercial fishing is centered in the St. Margarets Bay and Halifax Harbour area where the "jumper tuna" school in great numbers from June through to November.