

CONQUEROR OF MOUNT EVEREST: The Department of External Affairs presented a sleeping bag to Sir Edmund Hillary, New Zealand member of the team that successfully climbed Mount Everest, when he visited Ottawa on February 8. The sleeping bag, like those used by the expedition, was designed and manufactured in Canada.

The presentation was made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson. The New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr. T.C.A. Hislop, C.M.G., was present. Sir Edmund, who is on a North American speaking tour, was visiting Ottawa, to address the Canadian Club.

When the expedition conquered Mount Everest the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, sent congratulatory messages to Sir John Hunt, leader of the expedition, and to Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norkay. In recognition of their feat the Canadian Government also decided to present them with sleeping bags, identical with those used on the expedition. One has been sent to London for presentation to Sir John Hunt by the Canadian High Commissioner, and another has been sent to New Delhi for presentation to Tensing Norkay. The third was retained in Ottawa pending the arrival of Sir Edmund.

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SUPPLIES FOR NATO: Canada's February and March NATO shipments to Europe under terms of the Mutual Aid Agreement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will include military supplies for use by the armies of Turkey, France and Portugal.

The Turkish Army will receive 184 military-type trucks, the French Army a shipment of spare parts for vehicles already delivered, and the Portuguese Army a quantity of maintenance stores for wireless sets shipped earlier under terms of the agreement.

Supplies for the French and Portuguese Armies will be shipped from Halifax about mid-February. Trucks for the Turkish Army will be shipped from the Port of Saint John, N.B., early in March.

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PRICE INDEX DOWN SLIGHTLY: The consumer price index remained practically unchanged between December 1 and January 2, moving from 115.8 to 115.7. As was the case last month, the January 2 index is at the same level as one year earlier. The food index declined 0.4% from 112.1 to 111.6. Clothing prices were generally stable. The shelter index moved from 125.2 to 125.4 as rents continued to rise fractionally.

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TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY: Second World War Victoria Cross Winner, Lt.-Col. J.K. Mahony, will be posted to the United States Department of the Army in Washington early in April as Canadian Army Liaison Officer, it was announced on February 6 by Army Headquarters.

LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg, stated on February 8 that the principle of Labour-Management Production Committee, as a means of improving productivity, was becoming more widely recognized by industry. The number of committees recorded at the beginning of 1954 was almost three times the figure for 1945 - 979 against 346.

The Minister suggested that this marked growth in the number of Labour-Management Production Committees indicated a steadily mounting appreciation by both labour and management of the mutual benefits to be derived from joint consultation on problems of plant operation in obtaining high efficiency and production.

Mr. Gregg explained that as a consequence of the labour shortage in World War II the Department of Labour had undertaken to sponsor the formation of these Committees which deal only with subjects which are outside of the field of collective bargaining.

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BASIC COMMODITIES: Further moderate weakness was registered in basic commodities in January as indicated by a change in the composite index for 30 industrial material prices at wholesale from 225.8 for the week of December 31 to 224.1 for the week of January 22.

Among commodities, scrap steel dropped sharply, while lesser declines were noted for lead, zinc, steers, steel bars, raw rubber, tin, copper, iron ore, bleached sulphite pulp and western wheat. On the other hand, higher quotations were noted for beef hides, hogs, western oats, raw cotton and sisal.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets registered a slightly firmer tone in the opening month of 1954 as the index moved up from 208.4 for the week of December 31 to 210.4 by the week of January 22.

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\$63,877,000 SEA-FISH INDUSTRY: Mainly as a result of larger catches of herring and salmon on the Pacific coast, overall landings of sea-fish in Canada in the full year 1953 climbed to 1,223,699,000 pounds from the preceding year's 1,181,523,000 pounds. The landed value was moderately higher at \$63,877,000 compared with \$63,558,000. With a particularly sharp rise in the catch of herring on the Pacific coast, December's catch of all species rose in total to 104,626,000 pounds from 31,474,000, and the value advanced to \$3,831,000 from \$3,461,000.

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MOVIES FOR 1ST BRIGADE: Current movie fare is now available for all members of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade in West Germany, following the opening of the last of four small but modern theatres, one in each of the main camp areas occupied by the brigade.