

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: Three strikes accounted for 87 per cent of the time loss due to work stoppages arising from industrial disputes in Canada during November, 1949, according to the monthly summary of strikes and lockouts issued by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

The strike of rubber factory workers at Toronto, lithographers at London, Hamilton, Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, and motor vehicle factory workers at Oshawa were responsible for 87 per cent of the total time loss and more than 80 per cent of the total workers involved in all work stoppages during the month.

Preliminary figures for November, 1949, showed 20 strikes and lockouts in existence, involving 8,904 workers, with a time loss of 135,526 man-working days, as compared with 19 in October, 1949, with 16,008 workers involved and a time loss of 69,479 man-working days. In November, 1948, there were 21 strikes involving 3,452 workers with a time loss of 17,000 days.

MR. MAYHEW LEAVES FOR INDIA: The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Mayhew, left on December 23 on the first leg of his journey to Mysore, India, where he will head the Canadian delegation to the 110th session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, it was announced by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Mayhew, accompanied by A.H. Sager, his private secretary, left Montreal by air for London on Christmas Eve. Canada's alternate delegate will be Paul Bridle, First Secretary of the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in India.

The Governing Body, sitting from January 3 to January 7, will discuss the agendas for the 1950 and 1951 annual International Labour Conferences, as well as the report of the Director-General of the I.L.O. and the reports of several I.L.O. Committees.

The Governing Body acts as the executive of the I.L.O., and meets normally four times a year. Canada has the distinction of holding one of the eight permanent non-elective seats on this body, by virtue of its industrial importance.

Following the I.L.O. Conference, Mr. Mayhew will join the Canadian Delegation, headed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, at the Commonwealth Conference at Colombo.

ATHLETES TO NEW ZEALAND: Three members of the RCAF have been selected as members of Canada's team in the British Empire Games in New Zealand and have been granted special leave by the Air Force, it has been announced in Ottawa. They are Sgt. Jack Varaleau, Overbrook, Ont., a weight-lifter; Sgt. G.M. Plumb, Toronto, 150 lb. wrestler and LAC A.T. Jones, Saskatoon, coach of the swimming team. The team leaves Canada by air in mid-January.

"COLONIAL" TALKS POSTPONED: Representatives of the Canadian and the United States Governments have engaged during the past week in consultations concerning civil aviation relations between the two countries. These consultations were called so that both Governments might review questions arising under the Air Transport Agreement signed between the two Governments last June, including the details of recent problems relating to operations under the Agreement over the route between New York and Montreal. The discussions have been thorough and satisfactory progress has been made.

The United States representatives indicated their concern over certain aspects of the proceedings before the Air Transport Board which appeared to them to be based on the fact that Colonial Airlines was taking steps in the courts of the United States to test the validity of the Air Transport Agreement. The Canadian representatives stated that whereas the Air Transport Board had decided to hold hearings on the position of Colonial Airlines as a licensee of the Board on the route between Montreal and New York, at no time had the Canadian Government ever questioned the constitutional right of Colonial Airlines to have determined by the United States courts the validity of the Air Transport Agreement under United States law; nor had there ever been any desire on the part of the Canadian Government to interfere with judicial or administrative proceedings in the United States.

The representatives of the Canadian Government expressed themselves as satisfied that the United States had entered into the 1949 Agreement in good faith with every intention of carrying out its provisions. The representatives of the United States Government were also satisfied with the course adopted by the Canadian Government in implementing the provisions of the 1949 Agreement.

Although the discussions between the representatives of the two Governments took place within a general area of agreement, certain questions have arisen regarding the interpretation of particular articles of the bilateral agreement. It has been decided to adjourn the talks until an early date to permit each Government to consider the other's position in greater detail.

TRADE AND COMMERCE APPOINTMENTS: Staff transfers affecting Canada's two trade commissioner offices in Brazil were announced on December 23 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe. D.W. Jackson, formerly Assistant Commercial Secretary in Washington, has been appointed Commercial Secretary in Rio de Janeiro, and C.J. Van Tighem, until recently head of the Lima Office, has been posted to Sao Paulo as Commercial Secretary.

Born in Vernon, B.C., D.W. Jackson received his B.A. degree from the University of Western Ontario. During the war he served in the R.C.N.

and the R.N., attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He served in the intelligence branch of the R.C.M.P., 1932-41, and since joining the Trade Commissioner Service in 1945, has been stationed in Paris, Frankfurt, and Washington.

C.J. Van Tighem was born in Strathmore, Alta., and received his B. Com. degree from the University of Manitoba. During the war, he served in the R.C.N.V.R., commanding a Fairmile in the Western Atlantic. Joining the Trade Commissioner Service in 1945, he was posted to Lima, Peru as assistant Commercial Secretary, and in 1947 was promoted to Commercial Secretary in the same office.

WORLD WHEAT CROP: World wheat production this year is estimated at 6,185,000,000 bushels, up 100,000,000 bushels over the September forecast, and 170,000,000 bushels over the 1935-39 average crop of 6,015,000,000 bushels. If present indications are fully realized, the 1949 world wheat crop will be only some 200,000,000 bushels under the large outturn in 1948. The upward revision from September is due principally to higher estimates for some European countries and improved prospects in important producing southern hemisphere countries.

The North American crop in 1949 amounted to 1,511,000,000 bushels compared with 1,700,000,000 in 1948, and 1,086,000,000 in the five pre-war years. The United States crop for the sixth consecutive year has topped a billion bushels, compared with the 1935-39 average of 759,000,000 bushels. Canada's production of 367,000,000 bushels, though smaller than that of the war years, is still above the 1935-39 average of 312,000,000 bushels. Mexico's production, slightly less than last year's outturn, is also above the 1935-39 average.

Wheat production in Europe is now estimated at 1,465,000,000 bushels compared with the pre-war average of 1,595,000,000 bushels. The reduction is attributed to smaller acreage, with yields for the continent apparently near the pre-war level. Unusually favourable conditions over some areas resulted in record or near-record yields. In the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and the United Kingdom yields were generally higher than those experienced for many years. Drought in Spain and Portugal has been responsible for below-average yields but even so outturns were considerably better than anticipated on the basis of earlier reports. In the Balkan countries yields are also believed to be below average.

Wheat production in Africa is placed at about 156,000,000 bushels, which is somewhat above average as well as larger than the 1948 crop. In South America where the harvest is just getting under way, growing conditions have generally been favourable for grain. Indications are that a wheat outturn of 275,000,000 bushels is likely. Conditions in the

Argentine wheat areas point to above-average yields from a considerably below-average acreage. Production in Australia is estimated to be about the same as in 1948 when an above-average crop was harvested.

CANADIAN WHEAT SUPPLIES: Canadian wheat available for export and carry-over during the current crop year amounted to 319,100,000 bushels, based on the November 1 estimate by the Bureau of Statistics. This compares with 330,300,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Exports of wheat and wheat flour during the first three months of the current crop year totalled 63,900,000 bushels compared with 45,600,000 in the same period last year. The balance on hand on November 1 for export or carry-over amounted to 255,200,000 bushels as compared with 284,700,000 on the same date last year.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on December 8 amounted to 165,198,800 bushels as compared with 166,609,500 on December 1 and 177,007,800 on the corresponding date last year.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending December 8 totalled 3,298,800 bushels compared with 2,035,600 in the same week last year, and in the cumulative period, 74,292,300 bushels against 50,076,000.

MANUFACTURING INVENTORIES: The value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturers at the end of October showed a slight decline from the September level, the preliminary index number standing at 126.7 per cent of the average 1947 value as against the revised figure of 127.5 at the end of September. The index for October is six per cent below the February high and a fraction below the level of October, 1948.

Inventory values in the consumers' goods industries appear to have risen two points in October to reverse a steady decline since April, the October index at 125.0, being three per cent above October, 1948. In the capital goods industries, inventory values fell two points, continuing a steadily declining trend since June.

CARLOADINGS: Carloadings on Canadian railways during the week ended December 17 amounted to 72,123 cars as compared with 75,286 in the preceding week and 73,293 in the corresponding week last year. Loadings in the eastern division totalled 46,678 cars as compared with 49,001 a year ago, and in the western division, 25,445 cars compared with 24,292.