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More Labour-Management Production Committees: The Labour Department reports that the number of Labour-Management Production Committees now functioning in industry across Canada has reached more than 450, an increase of 70 in the last 12 months.

"Initiated during war years to increase wartime production through a closer partnership of management and workers, the committees operated so successfully that it was decided they could also fill a very useful place during the period of reconversion and afterwards, by bringing management and labour closer together," a Department statement says.

"When it came to getting work done during the war, cost of production was not the important item: rather it was the speed and volume of production that mattered. With industry returned to a basis of competition from other countries and other industries, the volume of production in relation to cost became important once more. Experience has shown that the committees are an assistance to the various industries in facing peacetime competition through an improvement of employer-employee relations."

The Committees are independent of collective bargaining and do not overlap the field of union-management negotiation. They are "designed as an aid to increase production, improve efficiency and generally to promote mutual confidence and trust between the partners in industry."

MacKinnon Appoints Area Traffic Officer: Trade Minister MacKinnon has announced appointment of William J. Fisher as an area traffic officer in Canada's foreign trade service. He will act as liaison officer with other government departments on transportation problems, internal and external, as they affect export and import trade and will also represent the department on interdepartmental committees on telecommunications and free port areas.

"The newly appointed area traffic officer will develop a close working arrangement with all Canadian shipping, railway and air transportation companies," Mr. MacKinnon said. "He will eventually assume responsibility for obtaining priorities and, in every way possible, will assist Canadian businessmen to obtain ship or air accommodation so long as difficulties remain in this regard." (CP)

Government Determined to Hold Controls: Resources Minister Glen says the Dominion government will go down to defeat, if necessary, in its efforts to hold price controls until it is time to abolish them. In an address before a Liberal association meeting at Treherne, Man., Mr. Glen said it would be "ridiculous" to hold another Dominion-Provincial conference at the present time. (CP)

Ration Books Indicate Population: The number of ration books distributed in 1946 indicates that Canada's population has increased by 613,389 since the 1941 census. The Prices Board distributed 12,120,044 books during the year, compared with 11,658,933 in 1945, when many Canadians were overseas. The 1941 census showed a population of 11,506,655. (CP)

Gleanings: The Secretary of State's Department has announced it will make no recommendations for civilian awards to Canadians in the King's New Year list of honors....Negotiations between the major maritime province coal companies and the United Mine Workers of America leading to a new contract will open at Glace Bay, N.S., next week....The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association is sending two representatives to Ottawa to discuss with officials of the British Ministry of Food the possibility of a long-term agreement for the sale of apples similar to the British-Canadian wheat agreement....A cold wave moving east from the prairie provinces caused a 30-degree drop in temperatures in Ontario and gales forced Great Lakes shipping into port.