

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:** Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance filed in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in March totalled 63,869 as compared with 76,723 in February and 43,675 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register at the end of March was 136,356 compared with 146,074 at the end of February and 103,291 a year ago.

**MR. ABBOTT'S ST. LOUIS SPEECH:** The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, addressed the Missouri Banker's Association at St. Louis on May 4, his subject being, "United States and Canada -- a Pattern for Economic Cooperation." After reviewing the trade and economic relationships of the two nations and outlining the background of Canada's U.S. dollar problem the Minister concluded as follows:--

"Canada will participate in the Marshall Plan in two ways. We will supply a large volume of goods; foods such as wheat, grain and meat; basic raw materials such as lumber and base metals -- and to some extent, manufactured goods such as agricultural implements. The supply of these goods from Canada will serve to ease the pressure on the United States economy....

"Broadly speaking, a country is able to give or lend abroad the surplus of its current receipts over its current payments in international transactions. For short periods it is possible to increase this figure to the extent that it can draw on its reserves of foreign exchange and gold, or to the extent that it is prepared to get into debt to another foreign country.

"The present state of our reserves precludes the extension of gifts or credits beyond our current account surplus -- less an amount necessary to build up our present abnormally low reserves. We cannot undertake more than is possible without impairing the health and stability of the Canadian economy. Any such impairment would certainly not be in the best interests of your country or mine. It would add to the problems of the Western world, not to help solve them.

#### TRUBLOUS TIMES

"We live in confused and troublous times. Fear and suspicion harass our every effort to establish peaceful and friendly relations between the nations of the world. In these critical times the relations between Canada and the United States stand out uniquely as an example of the mutual benefits that can be reaped if nations will learn to co-operate and live together peaceably. Both our countries have been spared the direct ravages of war. In that good fortune we must not forget our friends and allies who have been less fortunate....

"Canadians are realists. We recognize and are proud of the growing importance of our

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country in international affairs. But that pride does not blind us to the simple truth that your country occupies a central place in the world today. You emerged from World War II as a giant among nations. In your hands rests the power and the means for world leadership -- and with that power rests responsibility. The destitute and the oppressed of the world look to you for leadership and support. No other country can begin to do what you can do. Great Britain and Canada can help -- but they cannot lead. Only the United States can lead the world out of the sorry conditions which now prevail. Only the United States can provide the leadership and the help that can make the world the sort of place that your people and our people want to live in. Much depends on your internal strength, economic stability and moral stamina. We who know you well know that you are not unmindful of your responsibilities. We know, with confidence, that you will accept the challenge with determination and vigour. On your response depends the welfare and freedom of mankind. You may rest assured that Canada will not lag behind."

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING:** More than 135,000 ex-Service men and women will have received training under the Dominion-Provincial Vocational Training Plan when veteran rehabilitation training as a project comes to an end in the early fall of this year, it was reported to the Vocational Training Advisory Council which completed a two-day meeting in Ottawa April 23, under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Fred McNally, Chancellor, University of Alberta.

In an address to the Council, which was attended by educationalists from all parts of the Dominion, Arthur MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Labour, stated: "All of us who have been concerned with veterans training can be justifiably proud of what we have done. The provision of training for more than 135,000 men and women in a wide variety of trades in all parts of the country has been no small task, and the fact that it has been so successful and has been accomplished with such despatch is due alone to the manner in which it was organized."

Mr. MacNamara stated that the Advisory Council had played a splendid role in the organization of this training and that he looked forward to a continuation of the assistance of the Council in the expansion of civilian training.

Mr. MacNamara asked the Council to give consideration to the provision of training to immigrants who were being brought to this country from the Displaced Persons Camps.

**MANPOWER SITUATION:** The seasonally active agricultural and construction industries are absorbing thousands of workers, and it is likely that the summer of 1948 will see labour shortages, at least as great as those which occurred in 1947, it was announced by

Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, in issuing the monthly manpower analysis.

Employment conditions throughout the nation showed marked improvement during the past month. About 15,000 fewer workers were seeking jobs at April 15, 1948, than one month previously. Of the 184,000 unplaced applicants registered with Employment Service offices at April 15, 140,000 were males and 44,000 were females. There were 43,000 unfilled vacancies available at April 15, 9,000 more than at March 18, 1948.

At March 18, there were 13,000 more workers applying for jobs than at the same time one year ago. This gap has been considerably narrowed in the past month, since there now are only 9,000 more applicants than one year ago. The larger number of applicants as compared with last year now is almost entirely confined to women, many of whom are married. Male applicants currently number about the same as last year at this time.

**PAYMASTERS' CONFERENCE:** The first dominion-wide conference of Army paymasters of the Active Force since the war, will be held in Ottawa from the 4th to the 7th of May inclusive, Army Headquarters announced.

Under the chairmanship of Colonel C. E. Belanger, OBE, Director of Pay Services, the conference will get underway with 18 senior officers in attendance from Army Headquarters and military commands across the country.

Principal points for discussion will include financial regulations known as "Pay and Allowance Regulations for the Canadian Army", which were brought into use with effect October 1st, 1946. The purpose of this Conference is to study and discuss, in detail, with the actual officers responsible for their implementation, the accounting procedure presently in effect for both the Canadian Army Active and Reserve Forces, with a view of standardizing the procedure and simplifying accounting methods.

**ICAO DELEGATION HEAD:** The Department of External Affairs announced Monday that Brigadier C. S. Booth, Permanent Canadian Member on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, will head the Canadian delegation to the Second General Assembly of ICAO due to open in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 1. Other members of the delegation are Air Vice Marshal Alan Ferrier of the Air Transport Board, Mr. Stuart Graham, Superintendent of Air Regulations, Wing Commander Marlowe Kennedy, R.C.A.F.; Air Attache to the Canadian Embassy in Belgium, Mr. A. Rosevear, K.C., Assistant Solicitor-General, C.N.R., and Mr. O.G. Stoner, Department of External Affairs.

Brigadier Booth, a lawyer by profession, served as a combat flier in the First World War and as a General Staff officer in the Second World War. He has represented Canada over the past year at the ICAO Council Head-

quarters in Montreal and has gained special recognition for his work in the legal field of the Organization. Air Vice Marshal Ferrier and Mr. Graham have represented Canada in previous International Air Conferences, including the Chicago Conference on International Civil Aviation in 1944 and the First General Assembly of ICAO held in May, 1947, in Montreal.

It is expected that the Second General Assembly, which will last approximately three weeks, will approve many important recommendations placed before the Permanent Executive Council.

**MAJOR PICARD APPOINTMENT:** Major R. J. Picard, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps, and recently on the staff at the Joint Air School (Army Component) at Rivers, Man., has been appointed Air Liaison Officer with No. 19 Carrierborne Air Liaison Section, at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Army Headquarters announced.

Major Picard served in Italy with the Royal 22e Regiment and since the war ended has taken a number of air liaison and air-portability courses in the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the parachute course in Canada. He will assume his new appointment immediately.

**COST OF LIVING INDEX:** The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, reached an all-time high point on April 1, standing at 151.6 as compared with 150.8 on March 1. This rise of 0.8 was exactly the same as that recorded in the preceding month. The increase in this series since April last year amounted to 21 points. From August 1, 1939 to April 1 this year, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 50.4 per cent.

Clothing and food indexes showed the greatest changes between March and April, although small advances were registered also by fuel and light, home furnishings and services, and miscellaneous items. The increase in the food group which rose from 185.9 to 186.8, was attributable mainly to fresh vegetables and meats, although scattered advances occurred in other sections of the food budget; there were a few minor decreases which included a further seasonal recession for eggs.

The clothing index moved up from 169.9 to 172.9, with footwear leading a broad list of increases. Home furnishings and services changed from 161.2 to 161.9, fuel and light from 121.0 to 121.3, and miscellaneous items from 122.8 to 122.9. The rental index remained at 119.9.

**BORDER TRAFFIC:** Highway traffic at the Canada-United States border in March followed the same trend that was apparent in January and February. American vehicles continued to enter Canada in greater volume than in the corresponding period in 1947, and the number