

(C.W.B. November 5, 1948)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAWS: Honourable Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, announced November 2 that an annual publication of the Department of Labour, "Workmen's Compensation in Canada, a Comparison of Provincial Laws", is now available and may be obtained from the Legislation Branch of the Department.

Mr. Mitchell said that the publication contains changes made in workmen's compensation laws in seven provinces at the 1948 legislative sessions.

These changes include a reduction of the waiting period in Alberta from 14 to six days and in New Brunswick from seven to four days.

Five provinces -- Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan -- raised to \$50 the monthly benefit to a surviving consort. Higher payments in respect to dependent children were provided for in Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba, and in respect to orphans in Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

In non-fatal cases, New Brunswick fixed the minimum compensation for temporary total disability at \$12.50 per week instead of \$8, and Alberta increased the minimum payment for permanent total disablement from \$12.50 to \$15, or, in either case, average earnings, if less.

A large number of businesses not previously included were brought within the scope of the British Columbia Act. Additions to the list of occupational diseases compensatable were made in British Columbia and Manitoba. The New Brunswick Workmen's Compensation Board is now authorized to order medical examinations to determine whether a workman has an industrial disease.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY: The Minister of Mines and Resources, the Honourable James A. MacKinnon, announced November 2 that invitations had been sent to the provincial Premiers inviting them to come to Ottawa to discuss the construction of a Trans-Canada Highway. The date for the proposed discussions has not yet been set but they will take place in the very near future.

WHEAT MARKETINGS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on October 21 amounted to 180,375,000 bushels, up 4,040,000 bushels from the October 14 total and 36,176,000 bushels in advance of last year's corresponding visible, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Visible stocks in the western division were up sharply from a year ago, totalling 162,647,000 bushels as compared with 120,332,000. Stocks at eastern lake ports fell from 18,986,000 bushels a year ago to 8,996,000, in lake transit from 3,117,000 bushels compared with 2,788,000, but at eastern seaboard ports the stocks rose from 850,000 bushels to 2,072,000, and in rail transit in the eastern

division from 658,000 to 1,809,000 bushels.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending October 21 amounted to 2,910,000 bushels as against 2,446,000 a year ago.

REFINED PETROLEUM: Canadian production of refined petroleum products was higher in July rising to 7,623,000 barrels as compared with 6,848,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to revised figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. During the first seven months of this year, 43,911,000 barrels were produced as against 40,392,000 in the similar period last year.

Refineries used 8,075,000 barrels of crude oil during July compared with 7,212,000 in the same month last year. Receipts of crude during the month totalled 9,182,000 barrels, including 7,990,000 barrels of imported oil and 1,192,000 from Canadian sources of supply. Inventories of crude at the refineries at the end of the month amounted to 4,986,000 barrels compared with 4,336,000 on the corresponding date last year.

COAL AND COKE: Canadian production of coal during August amounted to 1,380,000 tons, showing an increase of 13 per cent over the August, 1947 total of 1,216,800 tons, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Output for the first eight months of this year totalled 11,257,500 tons as compared with 9,071,500 in the similar period of 1947.

Output of coke amounted to 339,500 tons compared with 334,700 in the preceding month and 275,900 in August last year. Cumulative production for the year to date was 2,586,600 tons as against 2,315,200 in the corresponding period of 1947.

Coal imported during the month totalled 4,370,200 tons, an increase of 38 per cent as compared with the August, 1947 total of 3,166,100 tons, while the exports totalled 81,430 tons as against 83,300 in August, 1947.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS: Lieutenant-Commander D.W. Groos, D.F.C., R.C.N., of Victoria, will become commanding officer of the destroyer H.M.C.S. "Crescent" on November 16, it was announced November 3 at Naval Headquarters. He succeeds Lt.-Cdr. J.A. Charles, of Rouleau, Sask.

A unit of the Pacific Coast fleet, "Crescent" is one of the five ships of the R.C.N. task force now on a training cruise to the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. The ships will arrive back at their base at Esquimalt, B.C., November 13.

The appointment of Acting Lt.-Cdr. A.J. Tanner, R.C.N., of Maryfield, Sask. and Toronto, Ontario, as Lieutenant Commander (Flying) at the Royal Canadian Naval Air Station, Dartmouth, N.S., was announced November 4 at Naval Headquarters, Ottawa.

EMPLOYMENT SETS RECORD: Industrial employment in Canada reached a new all-time high level in 1947, the general index for the eight major divisions increasing 8.5 per cent over the preceding year. At the same time the annual index of weekly payrolls rose 21.2 per cent, according to the annual review of employment and payrolls by the Bureau of Statistics. The salaried employees and wage-earners received an annual average of \$36.15 per week in 1947 as compared with \$32.38 in 1946, a rise of 11.6 per cent.

Moderate improvement in employment in manufacturing and relatively greater expansion as compared with 1946 in many of the non-manufacturing industries included brought the general index to 187.9 per cent of the 1926 average. This figure was 8.5 per cent above that indicated in 1946, and exceeded by 2.1 per cent the previous maximum index of 184.1 recorded in 1943. The upward movement resulted not only from continued heavy demand for commodities and services, but also from several other factors, notably generally greater availability of labour and supplies, and a decrease in the working time lost as a result of labour-management disputes.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Industrially, there were widespread though generally moderate increases in employment in the manufacturing industries, in which the index rose by 6.8 per cent from 1946. Mining showed a small advance; the situation was seriously affected by prolonged disputes in the coal fields. Considerable improvement was indicated in the remaining major industrial divisions, the gain in transportation amounting to 6.6 per cent, services 7.1 per cent, financial institutions 7.3 per cent, logging 15.1 per cent, communications 15.8 per cent, and construction and maintenance 18 per cent. The index of employment in non-manufacturing classes taken as a unit advanced 10.5 per cent.

Provincially there were generally higher levels of employment in 1947 than in 1946 in all areas except Nova Scotia. In that province, there was a decline of 3.7 per cent. In the remaining provinces, the increases in the 12 months ranged from 4.5 per cent in Manitoba and 5.3 per cent in Saskatchewan, to 8.2 per cent in Quebec, 9.2 per cent in Ontario, and 16.3 per cent in British Columbia. In the last-named, the marked advance partly resulted from a substantial decline in 1947 in the losses in employment and working time due to industrial disputes which had been a factor of particular importance in the province in 1946. In Nova Scotia, curtailment in industrial activity during the prolonged dispute in the coal fields was largely responsible for the lower index of employment in 1947.

DISPLACED PERSONS MOVEMENT: "It is unfortunate that such great importance is given to unfounded rumours which place the Displaced

Persons Movement in a bad light", Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, stated November 1 in commenting on a report that the Quebec Branch of a veterans' organization had charged laxity in the selection of Displaced Persons.

The Montreal report stated that the Quebec Provincial Command of the Canadian Corps Association had recommended "a general tightening of regulations governing the screening of immigrants coming into Canada", alleging that "former German storm troopers had entered Canada in the guise of DP's".

Mr. Mitchell stated that several such rumours had been run to ground and proven false by the Department of Labour. He stated that early last summer a Toronto newspaper reported that a former Canadian prisoner-of-war in Germany had met at the Hollinger Gold Mines his ex-Nazi prison camp guard. An investigation by the R.C.M.P. found that "the article was written by a part-time press reporter who had picked up a rumour in a bowling alley and built up a story around it without first having it confirmed".

"Unfortunately, these stories get wide publicity, while official denials, not being as interesting, do not", the Minister said.

Furthermore the Department of Labour has special officers engaged in visiting places where new arrivals are working and frequent checks are made of working conditions and attitudes of the men and women now employed.

STATEMENT ON THORIUM: Recent discoveries of radioactive deposits containing small amounts of thorium, usually accompanied by uranium, have given rise to queries as to whether the Canadian Government is interested in the purchase of thorium. Consequently, it has been considered advisable to outline the present position in this respect. The Atomic Energy Control Board announced November 2.

Thorium has long been recognized as a possible source of nuclear fuel. For this reason, it was declared a prescribed substance by The Atomic Energy Control Act, 1946, and all dealings in it are subject to the provisions of the Atomic Energy Regulations of Canada.

Many complex problems must be solved before thorium can be regarded as an available source of nuclear fuel. Since the solving of these problems may take several decades, it was decided that it would not be practicable at the present time to work out a basis for the purchase of thorium in Canadian ores or concentrates. This decision, however, will be reviewed from time to time in the light of progress in the solving of the problems of utilization and of any new information as to occurrences of thorium bearing ores in Canada.

At the present time the main uses of thorium in Canada are for research and for the manufacture of incandescent gas mantles, for which purposes supplies of thorium are being obtained from the monazite sands of India and Brazil.