



# AIRMAIL BULLETIN

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**Benning Sentenced to Five Years:** James Scotland Benning, 33-year-old former official in the wartime Munitions Department, has been sentenced to five years in penitentiary by Chief Justice J.C. McRuer of the Ontario Supreme Court. A jury deliberated for four hours before returning a verdict of guilty of a charge of communicating confidential information to Russia. Of 18 Canadians detained as a result of the espionage probe, Mr. Benning was the seventh to be convicted. Two have been acquitted. Chief Justice McRuer said he had been "found guilty of a very, very serious crime...one designed to do great injury to our national existence. The jury has come to the conclusion that you were the agent Foster. Foster was a most active agent. In the light of the proper administration of justice I cannot regard your sentence lightly." (CP)

**Prime Minister Meets Cabinet:** Prime Minister Mackenzie King held a Cabinet meeting shortly after his return from his Washington meeting with President Truman and his visit to the opening sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

On his return yesterday he told reporters he felt there was "less of contention" in current Assembly sessions than in preliminary stages of other international conferences. "Disagreements in themselves are not to be deprecated," he said. "We must get to the truth." Mr. King termed President Truman's address "excellent" and said his remarks were "akin to the Canadian view on world affairs that the nations all must give their support to the United Nations organization."

Of his talks with the President, he said they had "decided to talk about anything that either party might wish to discuss but the conference should not be regarded as being more than informal....We talked freely and advantageously on matters of mutual concern." (CP)

**Last of Rubber Strikes Over; Woodsmen Negotiate:** Canada's labour picture has been brightened by settlement of the last of 10 lengthy strikes in the rubber industry and optimism surrounding a conference in Toronto regarding the strike of bush workers in northern Ontario. The strike of 1,200 workers at the merchants plant of the Dominion Rubber Company at Kitchener, Ont., ended with union ratification of an agreement granting general wage increases of 13 cents an hour, retroactive to May 19 and off-shift bonuses. The strike began last June 24 with a demand for a 20-cent hourly increase.

At Toronto, Jack Quinn, president of the Port Arthur local of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers (A.F.L.), said northern Ontario lumber companies had agreed to the union's basic demands for union recognition and a \$5 daily minimum wage. The agreement still is in the draft stage. (CP)

**Gardiner Discusses Wheat Policy:** Agriculture Minister Gardiner says the government will seek to remove "at the earliest possible date" the difference of 30 cents between the prices at which wheat is sold in Britain and to millers for domestic use....

However, he said in an interview, that the difference could not be eliminated at present without "putting out of balance" the cost-of-living and the government price control program.

Canada charges Britain \$1.55 a bushel, while wheat is sold to Canadian millers at \$1.25 a bushel. (CP)

**Immigration Higher:** The Immigration Branch reports that nearly 34,000 new Canadians came to the Dominion during the first six months of 1946, an increase of 147 per cent over the same period of 1945. Most were wives and children of servicemen and 25,000 of them came from the British Isles. Americans moving to Canada totalled 5,000 and 1,600 immigrants came from northern European countries and 2,100 from other parts of the world.

(over)