

its views regarding the disposal of the former Italian Colonies to the Conference of Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France, which is in session at Lancaster House, London.

The Government of Canada has replied that at this initial stage it does not wish to take advantage of the opportunity to present the Canadian viewpoint on this question. The Canadian Government may, however, wish to make known its views on the disposal of Italy's former African possessions at a later date when the reports are available of the Commission of Investigation which it is anticipated will be sent out to the former Italian Colonies in accordance with the terms of the joint resolution of the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France, contained in Annex XI of the Peace Treaty with Italy.

The Government of Canada expressed a further wish to be kept informed to the fullest extent practicable of all important developments in the consideration of this question by the Conference of Deputies, including the substance of any opinions on the final disposal of the colonies which may be presented by other interested Governments.

AIR SERVICE COMPANY

JOINT SCHOOL TRAINING: A Special Air Service Company now being formed of volunteers from the three infantry battalions of the Active Force Brigade Group is scheduled to commence training in mid-November at the Joint Air School, Rivers, Manitoba, the Department of National Defence announces.

Some officers and NCOs have already been trained for the Company and have participated in a number of rescues in remote parts of the country. The most spectacular of these is the current "Exercise Canon" where four SAS Company men including a medical officer were parachuted with medical supplies to the aid of Canon John H. Turner, an Anglican missionary, seriously injured at Moffet Inlet, on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic.

On another occasion, two SAS officers parachuted to the rescue of an American sergeant and his wife whose plane was forced down near Waterhen Lake in Manitoba, 170 miles north of the Joint Air School. Later, a Norseman plane landed to pick up the sergeant and his wife, who were uninjured.

The Special Air Service Company, when it is recruited up to strength, will consist of five officers and 114 other ranks and will be organized into headquarters and three platoons. It is to be permanently stationed at the Joint Air School where it will have all the facilities of the school at its disposal, and from where any point in Canada can be reached within a matter of hours.

In addition to its air search and rescue duties, the SAS Company will be capable of

flying to any point in the Dominion to give public service in cases of national catastrophe. They will also provide troops to aid tactical research and development in airborne work and stage land-air warfare demonstrations for the benefit of military personnel or for the public.

Troops for the SAS Company will be drawn from the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps and must have completed their general military training before selection. They must be 30 years of age or less, in first class physical condition, have an "M" test score of 140 or over and be recommended as above average in intelligence and physical ability. Candidates must also be single and willing to volunteer for parachute training.

Postings to the SAS Company will be from two to three years duration and it will take at least a year for a man to become fully trained.

Training with the company includes instruction in parachuting and glider work; map reading and use of a compass; demolitions; first aid and medical care; mechanical transport and small boat handling; rescue work and the evacuation of casualties; and the operation of electric, diesel and gasoline engines. This training is in addition to their normal work as infantrymen which will be kept up to scratch during their attachment to the Joint Air School.

SAVINGS BOND SALES: Purchases of Canada Savings Bonds under the Payroll Savings Plan continue to be the feature of sales reports. Up to the end of October 31st, 381,320 applications had been recorded under the plan for purchases of \$77,099,600. This compares with 426,917 applications for \$75,341,850 for the same period last year. The average purchase under the Payroll Savings Plan to date stands at \$202.19. These results confirm early estimates of widespread demand for convenient facilities for saving out of income.

Purchases by the general public are running dollar-for-dollar with Payroll purchases. Combined figures show total applications of 524,898 for sales amounting to \$153,515,050.

With the Payroll Savings Organization well in step with its time schedule, arrangements are now being made for a quick clean-up of incomplete canvassing.

Among the special groups offering the Payroll Savings Plan, the Civil Service reports purchases of \$3,924,650, Armed Forces \$825,700, and Railways \$7,288,250.

The new Bonds which have been obtainable since October 14th from investment dealers, banks and other savings institutions are now subject to withdrawal by the Minister of Finance. Should they continue to be obtainable after November 15, accrued interest will be added to the purchase price at that time.

Value of pelts from wild life and fur farms reached a new high of \$43,870,541 in 1945-1946.

NINE MONTHS FOREIGN TRADE

Foreign trade of Canada reached record proportions during the first nine months of this year, being valued at \$3,927,500,000 compared with \$3,043,900,000 in the same period of 1946, an increase of 29 per cent. The previous high for the nine-month period was registered in 1944 at \$3,907,000,000. In September the trade was valued at \$429,700,000 practically the same as in August, but 31 per cent higher than in September last year when the total was \$328,000,000.

Domestic exports in the first nine months were valued at \$2,004,900,000 compared with \$1,663,900,000 in the similar period of 1946, an increase of 20.5 per cent. In September, there was a further slight recession from the record levels of May and June, but the month's total was substantially higher than in Sept. last year. Exports in the month were valued at \$218,600,000 compared with \$221,300,000 in August and \$169,800,000 in September last year.

Commodities were imported to the value of \$1,892,600,000 during the first nine months of this year compared with \$1,360,800,000 in the

period of 1946, a gain of 39 per cent. In September, the value was \$208,100,000, slightly higher than in August when the total was \$204,600,000, but one-third higher than last year's September figure of \$156,100,000.

Foreign commodities were re-exported to the value of \$26,400,000 in the nine months of this year, compared with \$19,200,000 in the like period of 1946. In September, the value was \$3,000,000 compared with \$3,500,000 in August and \$2,100,000 a year ago.

In the nine months, the balance of merchandise trade with all countries was favourable to Canada to the extent of \$135,000,000 compared with \$322,300,000 in the same period of 1946, and the pre-war five-year average of \$132,200,000. Net exports of non-monetary gold -- additional to the balance of trade -- amounted in the nine months to \$71,900,000 compared with \$74,600,000 in 1946, and the pre-war five-year average of \$89,700,000.

The following table, compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, gives the figures in summarized form:

	AVERAGE 1935-39	1938	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
(Millions of Dollars)								
TRADE OF CANADA: NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER								
IMPORTS	493.6	505.9	1,240.2	1,277.0	1,330.0	1,187.8	1,360.8	1,892.6
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	617.0	594.6	1,677.9	2,119.2	2,546.6	2,517.0	1,663.9	2,004.9
FOREIGN EXPORTS	8.8	8.2	14.4	17.9	30.4	39.9	19.2	26.4
TOTAL TRADE	1,119.4	1,108.7	2,932.5	3,414.1	3,907.0	3,744.6	3,043.9	3,927.5
BALANCE OF TRADE	+ 132.2	+ 96.8	+ 452.1	+ 860.1	+ 1,247.0	+ 1,369.1	+ 322.3	+ 135.0
BALANCE OF TRADE UNITED KINGDOM	+ 152.7	+ 154.1	+ 441.5	+ 667.2	+ 872.6	+ 696.9	+ 274.2	+ 411.5
BALANCE OF TRADE UNITED STATES	- 70.6	- 124.1	- 386.0	- 237.4	- 150.2	+ 34.9	- 339.1	- 718.3
NET EXPORTS GOLD	89.7	118.1	138.6	109.7	85.3	72.3	74.6	71.9
DUTY COLLECTED	67.8	68.7	117.7	124.6	135.3	124.2	156.6	239.6

FINAL UNRRA CONTRACTS

AGGREGATE OF \$254 MILLION: Completing UNRRA procurement in Canada, final contracts have recently been placed on behalf of that administration for goods worth approximately \$2,319,000.

W.D. Low, Managing Director of the Canadian Commercial Corporation, one of the functions of which has been that of purchasing agent for UNRRA in Canada, announced Nov. 4 that negotiations had been concluded within recent weeks for the purchase of 4,000,000 pounds of canned horsemeat for shipment from Swift Current, Saskatchewan to Poland. Some 1,250,000

pounds of this quantity is already in transit to destination, and the remainder is awaiting ocean shipping space. 29,402 cases (723,256 pounds) of macaroni are destined for Austria.

Drugs, medical supplies and hospital equipment valued at \$970,000 have been purchased by the Corporation, principally for China and Poland, but a small quantity will go to Italy, Austria and Yugoslavia.

Fertilizer producing equipment valued at \$402,000 has been procured on behalf of Formosa, and will be available for delivery by the end of the year. Among the many items included under this heading are a coal-washing plant, pulverizing machinery, cyanamide ovens, and