

SEAL RESEARCH: Opening dates for the 1954 Atlantic sealing operations were announced on February 25 by the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Sinclair.

Mr. Sinclair said that two areas are involved - the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where sealing will be permitted as of March 5, and what is commonly known as the "front", where sealing will be permitted as of March 10. The "front" covers the ice-bound expanse off the east coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland.

Informal discussions between Canada, Norway, Denmark and France have resulted in standard opening dates for the past three seasons. Both sealing areas will be patrolled prior to the opening of the season by aircraft with Department of Fisheries personnel aboard.

The harp seals of the North Atlantic have been hunted for centuries by expeditions from both Europe and North America, which set out each spring as the herds of seals move southward from the Arctic with the ice floes. During recent years the Fisheries Research Board of Canada has carried out tagging operations and has made aerial surveys to obtain new information as to the size of the herds and their productivity. The research programme is to be continued this year by survey parties which will accompany the Canadian ships taking part in the hunt.

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CANADA-U. S. COMMITTEE: The Department of External Affairs announced on February 26 that the Joint United States-Canada Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs will hold its first meeting in Washington on March 16.

Arrangements for the establishment of the Joint United States-Canada Committee were made in an exchange of notes on November 12, 1953. It will be recalled that the suggestion for a Joint Committee was originally made during the visit of the Prime Minister to Washington in May 1953. The Canadian members of the Committee consist of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Commerce and Agriculture or Fisheries. The United States members include the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Agriculture and Commerce.

The activities of the Joint Committee constitute one aspect of the efforts of both countries in promoting satisfactory trade relations on a multilateral basis.

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RECORD POWER OUTPUT: Canadian production of energy by central electric stations in the full year 1953 climbed to a new record total of 65,489,253,000 kilowatt hours, 6% above the previous high of 61,786,035,000 in 1952. All provinces shared in the rise during the year. December's output rose to 5,718,496,000 kilowatt hours from 5,535,561,000.

AIR AGREEMENT WITH PERU: The Department of External Affairs announced on February 24 that a Bilateral Air Transport Agreement was signed at Lima, Peru, on February 18 by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. Emile Vaillancourt, on behalf of Canada, and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ricardo Rivera Schreiber, on behalf of Peru.

It provides, among other things, for the reciprocal exchange of air traffic rights to be exercised between Canada and Peru by the designated airlines of both countries over an eastern route between Montreal and Lima, and over a western route between Vancouver and Lima. For several months Canadian Pacific Airlines have been operating a service between Vancouver and Lima, via Mexico City, under a temporary authority granted by the Peruvian Government.

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RECORD AUTO SHIPMENTS: Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles climbed to an all-time high of 479,649 units in the year 1953, almost 11% above the previous top of 432,696 in 1952. Figures released on February 11 show that the year's sales also reached a new high of 461,887, up 15% from 400,777 in 1952.

Reversing the downward trend of the previous four months, December's output of motor vehicles rose to 33,770 units from 29,868 a year earlier. Gains were shown in each of the first seven months of 1953. Top monthly figure for the year was 52,420 in April.

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VARIETY SHOW FOR TROOPS: The first all-Canadian variety show to visit Germany since the Second World War raised the roof at the Globe Cinema at Fort Henry and Fort York Barracks February 24 to the applause of more than 600 members of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment and Headquarters 1 Canadian Infantry Brigade.

The show, consisting of five entertainers, was sent to Germany for the official openings of the four theatres of the camp areas occupied by the Brigade.

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MILITARY ATTACHE: Major C.P. Haynes, of Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver, has been appointed Canadian Military Attaché to Sweden and Finland.

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VETERANS RETURN: Three officers and 167 men, representative of most units of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade, are to arrive at the Port of Seattle on February 28, it was announced on February 25 at Army Headquarters. All are veterans of a year or more service in the Far East.