

ponding date last year. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of prices received for all products, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 200.2 compared with 183.9 a year ago, an increase of 16.3 points.

The index numbers for all provinces have registered substantial increases when compared with October last year, higher prices for grains, live stock, dairy products and potatoes being chiefly responsible. Increases are shown also in the indices of prices for poultry and eggs in all provinces except Prince Edward Island.

CURTAILED IMMIGRATION'S EFFECT: Curtailment of immigration during the war years is reflected in population figures on birthplace, mother tongue and citizenship for the Province of Saskatchewan on the basis of the 1946 Census of the Prairie Provinces.

Of the 832,688 population residing in Saskatchewan on June 1, 1946, 526,849 or nearly 64 per cent were born in Saskatchewan; 110,817, or 13 per cent were born in other parts of Canada; 60,200 or seven per cent were born in the British Isles and other British countries; and 134,822 or 16 per cent were born in foreign countries.

A decade ago at the 1936 Census, corresponding birthplace percentages out of a total population of 931,547 were as follows: Saskatchewan, 55 per cent; other parts of Canada, 16 per cent; British Isles and other British countries, nine per cent; and foreign countries 20 per cent.

Principal foreign birthplaces in 1946, with corresponding figures for 1936 in brackets are as follows: United States, 45,048 (63,872); U.S.S.R., 23,438 (28,651); Poland, 17,145 (30,760); Scandinavian countries, 12,665 (18,807); Austria, 11,959 (9,321); Germany, 5,294 (8,484); Hungary, 4,352 (5,771); Roumania, 4,052 (9,916).

RETAIL SALES UP 5 P.C.: Sales of retail merchants in Canada continued upward through October, rising five per cent above the previous month and showing a gain of 12 per cent over October last year, according to the broad sample of reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's increase over a year ago was below the gain of 16 per cent recorded for September but above the average for the year, which stands at ten per cent for the ten months.

The Bureau's unadjusted general index of retail sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 254.1 for October as compared with 241.2 for September and 227.2 for October last year.

MOVIES' ALL-TIME HIGH: Motion picture theatre attendance and box office receipts reached all-time highs in 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Paid admissions during the year totalled 227,538,798, and

receipts \$74,941,966, compared with 215,573,267 admissions and receipts of \$69,485,732 in 1945. Amusement taxes collected during the year amounted to \$15,052,994 as against \$14,055,021. The number of theatres in 1946 was 1,477, an increase of 154 during the year.

Receipts continued to fall below the level of the war years in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, but the remaining provinces continued to advance. Per capita expenditure for Canada as a whole was \$6.15 compared with \$5.77 in 1945. Higher figures were recorded for all provinces with the exception of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and ranged from a high of \$8.10 in British Columbia to a low of \$3.17 in Prince Edward Island.

Fifty per cent of the 1,477 theatres were owned by individuals or firms operating only one theatre and these houses accounted for 19.2 per cent of the net receipts and 21.5 per cent of all theatre attendance. Theatres operated by firms owning from four to nineteen theatres comprised 11.7 per cent of the total number and had 11.9 per cent of total receipts and 12.8 per cent of admissions. Twenty-five per cent of all theatres were operated by firms owning 20 theatres or more and these obtained 59 per cent of the net receipts and admitted 56.3 per cent of all persons attending motion picture theatres. The balance, 13.1 per cent of the theatres, were operated by firms owning two or three theatres and these accounted for 9.5 per cent of total receipts and 9.4 per cent of total admissions.

STOCKS OF MEAT HIGHER: Stocks of meat held by packers, abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on December 1 moved up to 110,030,109 pounds, compared with 61,876,139 pounds on November 1, and 82,367,122 pounds on the corresponding date last year. Meat stocks thus showed an "into-storage" movement during November of 48,200,000 pounds compared with a similar movement last year of 15,400,000 pounds.

COURSES FOR ARMY TRADESMEN

RAISING THE ACADEMIC STANDARD: Special courses to be conducted at the Corps School of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Barriefield, Ont., are being organized to raise the academic standards of military tradesmen to the levels demanded by today's highly specialized army trades, announces the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton.

Although recruits may be accepted in the postwar Active Force if they have a scholastic standing of junior matriculation or its equivalent, men with higher standards are required for radar and wireless technicians, engineers, instrument mechanics, electricians and other skilled army trades. Such jobs require a sound grounding in matriculation mathematics and science, and the object of the new course is to educate tradesmen and potential tradesmen, to this standard.

This training will be divided into two courses running consecutively, the first covering junior matriculation mathematics and science, and the second, senior matriculation in the same subjects. Only the subjects required by military trades will be taught, these will include geometry, algebra, trigonometry, physics and chemistry.

Under the present Army system, a recruit is first given basic training, which includes general military training and instruction appropriate to the corps to which he belongs. If a potential tradesman, he is then given his initial trades training, the duration of which is dependent upon the trade being learned and the amount of instruction the recruit can absorb when undergoing the training for the first time. After a period of employment at his trade, he may then be selected either for additional trades training that requires no educational advancement or for academic training at the Barriefield school. When this is complete, he is then ready for his final trades training course.

Men already qualified in trades upon joining the army will be selected immediately for training that requires no educational advancement, or for one or both of the academic courses.

RETURNS FROM STAFF COLLEGE: Having completed the one year's course at the Staff College, Camberley, England, Lieut.-Col. C.A. Peck, of Aylmer, Que., returns to Ottawa shortly to assume his new duties as general staff officer, grade one, in the Army's Directorate of Military Training. Lieut.-Col. Peck is an officer in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, and in the war was officer commanding 2nd Canadian Infantry Division Signals.

TRANSFERRED TO OTTAWA: Lieut.-Col. J.L. Sparling, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, of Vancouver, has been transferred to duty in the Directorate of Supply and Transport at Army Headquarters, Ottawa, it was announced at AHQ today. He has been Supply and Transport Officer at HQ British Columbia Area in the West Coast city.

TRIBUTES TO LORD BALDWIN: When the House of Commons opened on Monday, leaders of all parties joined in tribute to the memory of Earl Baldwin, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

In the course of a statement to the Press, Prime Minister Mackenzie King said:

In Lord Baldwin's death, at the advanced age of eighty years, there passes from the scene of world politics one who in his day was foremost as an Empire statesman. Throughout his public life, he had an understanding of Commonwealth relations second to none, and guided the development of the Commonwealth along lines which made possible the close co-operation which prevailed in the testing time of war.

Canadians, regardless of party affiliations, retain many cherished memories of Lord Baldwin's visits to Canada during his years of office. They will always remember that he was the first Prime Minister of Great Britain to visit this country while in office. His visits to Canada were symbolic of his attitude in Commonwealth affairs. It was while Baldwin was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom that the Imperial Conference of 1926, over which he presided, gave formal recognition to equality of status of the nations of the Commonwealth, and it was a Government over which he presided which sent the first United Kingdom High Commissioner to Ottawa. His contributions to the development of Commonwealth relations will prove enduring.

MORE DISPLACED PERSONS ARRIVE: Allocation of 856 men and women from the Displaced Persons Camps of Germany, who arrived in Halifax Dec. 12 is announced by Minister of Labour Mitchell.

The occupational breakdown, subject to last minute changes, is as follows: Domestic, 109; garment workers (mostly for employment in Toronto and Montreal), 82; miners (for Northern Ontario and Quebec mines), 230; railroad maintenance workers, 175; heavy labour Ontario Hydro developments (Chalk River, Ont.), 92; near relatives, 168.

(Under the movement of Displaced Persons to Canada, provision is made for residents of Canada who have relatives in many parts of Europe to arrange through the Immigration Authorities for them to come to Canada, provided they are in good health and of good character.)

WILDLIFE SERVICE ESTABLISHED: The establishment of a Dominion Wildlife Service as part of the current reorganization of the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, emphasizes the growing importance of the conservation and management of Canada's wildlife resources.

The new unit will be in charge of Dr. Harrison F. Lewis, who will deal with questions of policy and method with reference to wildlife resources under control of the Dominion Government. He will be responsible for the administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, the Northwest Game Act, and the Fur Export Ordinance of the Northwest Territories.

The new Wildlife Service will attend to conservation of the game and fur resources and other wild creatures in the Northwest Territories, the management of wild animals, birds, and fish in the National Parks of Canada and the handling of national and international problems relating to wildlife resources as a national asset, and will co-operate with other agencies having similar interests and problems.

The Dominion Wildlife Service will also carry on certain lines of research in connection with wild mammals and birds, including furbearers, game of all kinds, and insect-eating birds.