

This proposed extension of slightly over eighty miles was announced by the provincial Government last spring. Its completion will afford connections at Prince George with the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. St-Laurent recalled that mileage subsidies had been the traditional method by which the Government of Canada had assisted railway construction in the past. He referred particularly to the subsidy paid to the Province of Ontario to defray part of the cost of constructing the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, under authority of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Aid Act of 1913.

International Trade Gains: Despite tightening foreign markets, Canada is making new gains on the international trade front.

Exports in June climbed to \$255,100,000, up nine per cent from the \$223,500,000 worth of goods sold in June last year, the Bureau of Statistics reported on August 4, according to the analysis of the report by the Canadian Press.

The June increase, which reflected boosts in exports over the same period last year to the United States, the Commonwealth and Latin America, helped bring Canada's total exports for the first half of 1949 to the \$1,424,600,000 mark.

This was an increase of 1.7 per cent over the \$1,400,100,000 worth of goods sold during the first half of 1948.

There were no figures yet available on Canada's imports during June. The Bureau said this would take another three weeks. It then would be possible to estimate Canada's trade balance for that month. Imports have been climbing too.

Biggest factors in the June and half-year exports increase were greater shipments of wheat, cattle, farm machinery, implements, nickel, copper, lead, zinc and products made from these metals.

Shipments of flour, bacon and hams, other meats, some lumber products and wood pulp were substantially lower. A fat share of Canada's exports in June went to the United States. These were valued at \$113,900,000, slightly increased from the \$109,800,000 shipped last year and raising the cumulative total for the first half of 1949 to \$690,900,000, compared with \$646,000,000 in 1948.

Shipments to dollar-short United Kingdom during June showed a reversal of a downward trend in earlier months this year. June's exports rose to \$60,700,000, compared to \$54,200,000 a year ago. The half-year total was down to \$335,600,000 from \$359,400,000 in 1948....

Living Cost Increases: The Bureau of Statistics reported on August 4, that the cost-of-living index jumped 1.6 points during June, from 160.5 to 162.1. It was the highest leap the living-cost yardstick has taken in a year.

The report described the sudden increase as "seasonal" and based mainly on a 4.3-point rise in the food index, from 202.9 to 207.2. However, rents also showed an increase of a full point, jogging upward from 122.4 to 123.4, reflecting the results of a June rent survey which covered the second quarter of the year.

Across Canada: Offices used by the staff of the House of Commons are being moved to the East Block to make room for accommodation for the increased number of members of Parliament this session.... Employment showed considerable expansion throughout Canada at the beginning of June, the Bureau of Statistics has reported.

(No Bulletin was issued August 4)