

Prime Minister Announces Refugee Plan: Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced today that arrangements have been completed with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees by which "it is expected that some of the refugees, whose relatives have applied for their admission to this country, will be enabled to proceed to Canada. To aid the scheme, immigration inspectors would be sent to Europe from Canada as a "special measure" taken "because of the desire of the Canadian government to make a contribution to the solution of the refugee problem."

The recent amendment to the immigration regulations made the following persons admissible: "The wife or unmarried child under 18 years of age, the unmarried son or daughter 18 years of age or over, the father or mother, the unmarried brother or sister, the orphan nephew or niece under 18 years of age, of any person legally admitted to and resident in Canada who is in a position to receive and care for such relatives."

Mr. King said many of these people now are in displaced persons' camps or otherwise under care of such organizations as U.N.R.R.A. The new arrangements had been made because "in the past there has been no way in which these people could receive the necessary immigration inspection prior to proceeding to Canada nor was there any organization capable of arranging for their movement to Canada."

Lists of those whose relatives had applied for their admission to Canada will be sent to the Intergovernmental Committee which will locate and assemble them at convenient points for inspection.

"Preliminary arrangements...will be made at once, and the co-operation of the appropriate military authorities in Germany now is being sought. It is not expected however, that it will be possible for persons in the occupied zones to be inspected for some time."

Polish Treasures Missing: Dr. Alfred Fiderkiewicz, Polish Minister to Canada, has disclosed that some of the "priceless" Polish art treasures kept in Canada during the war are missing. Including tapestries woven in 1560 by royal command, Chopin manuscripts, a coronation sword, a Gutenberg bible and other articles, they were stored in churches and convents at Aylmer and Ste. Anne de Beaupre, Que. Church officials released the missing pieces to a man giving the correct password, "The Holy Virgin of Czestohova," and presenting a "receipt." They described the man as having a tumor behind his ear and the minister said the description would fit a former member of the Polish Legation at Ottawa named "Polkowski," a representative of the former Polish government in exile. The treasures came to Canada in custody of the former minister, Victor Podoski, who arranged for their safe-keeping. Most of them and \$17,000,000 in gold have been returned to Poland. (CP)

Alanbrooke and Simonds Debate Empire Defence: Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, former chief of the Imperial general staff, speaking at a meeting of the Royal Empire Society in London, called for a Commonwealth chief-of-staff committee to co-ordinate all Commonwealth defences. Lt.-Gen. Guy Simonds of Kingston, Ont., when invited to address the meeting during discussion of Lord Alanbrooke's remarks, rejected the plan as unnecessary.

Gen. Simonds, speaking solely as a Canadian citizen and without official sanction, said the present close liaison system among Commonwealth countries is adequate, adding that it must be maintained at both government and military levels "to foresee and take necessary steps to prevent dangers and in that way lay a basis for quick organization for war."

He said Commonwealth countries were reluctant to enter any more formal undertakings which involved the question of peace or war because "the power to take a decision in these matters rests only with the elected representatives of the people and there is reluctance to give any flat undertaking until such events actually materialize."

"Otherwise, in fulfilling them, there would be danger that countries would go to war divided internally or else placed in the invidious position of having to forgo an accepted obligation." (CP)

Canada Signs Flax Agreement With Britain: The Canadian government has signed an agreement with the British Board of Trade under which Britain will take the entire exportable surplus of all grades of Canadian flax fibre and most of the exportable surplus of flax tow during the 12 months ending September 15, 1947. It replaces a wartime agreement which ended last September 15. (CP)