

FEDERAL ELECTION AUGUST 10: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, announced on June 12 that a federal general election had been called for August 10. He also announced the appointment to the Cabinet of Mr. J.W. Pickersgill, 47, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet.

Mr. Pickersgill becomes Secretary of State, succeeding Mr. Frederic Gordon Bradley, who was appointed to the Senate, together with six others. Among these were Mr. Ross W. Macdonald, Speaker of the Commons, and Mr. Joseph A. Bradette (L. Cochrane), 27 years a member of Parliament.

Other Senate appointees were Mr. Leonard Tremblay, Liberal Member for Dorchester, Que.; Mr. Sarto Fournier, Liberal Member for Maisonneuve-Rosemount; Mr. Aurele Leger, Liberal Member for Kent, New Brunswick, and Mr. John J. Connolly, Ottawa lawyer and the only new Senator who has not been a Member of Parliament.

The Prime Minister announced the resignation of Mr. Alphonse Fournier as Minister of Public Works and his appointment as a Judge of the Exchequer Court.

FISHERIES CONVENTION: The Canadian Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Mayhew, on June 12 exchanged in Tokyo, on behalf of the Canadian Government, the Instrument of Ratification with the Japanese Government and the United States Embassy in Tokyo of the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean. By this exchange, the Convention, signed at Tokyo on May 9, 1952, now comes into force.

Under the Convention the signatories agree to abstain from engaging in fisheries which are being conserved by one or both of the other parties. The Convention also provides for the establishment of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission composed of the representatives of the three countries, empowered to investigate any fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean in which two or more of the parties are engaged and to make recommendations for joint conservation action by the Government concerned. Not included in such studies and recommendations however are fisheries already covered by agreements between the parties such as the Pacific halibut and sockeye salmon fisheries.

FEWER COMMERCIAL FAILURES: Commercial failures under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Act in the first quarter of 1953 declined to 382 as compared with 470 in the corresponding 1952 period. This was a fall of 19 per cent and was the first reversal of the upward trend in first quarter comparisons since 1946. Estimated liabilities were down to \$7,151,000 as compared with \$7,285,000.

HOSPITAL ADVANCE: "The outstanding feature of the National Health Programme is the tremendous encouragement it has given towards the construction of new hospital accommodation," said the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, before the Eighth Western Canada Institute for Hospital Administrators and Trustees, at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, on June 15.

"Since the inauguration of this programme in 1948", he added, "there have been built or started in Canada one-third as many new hospital beds as we had managed to accumulate in all the years before 1948. For this purpose, federal grants of some \$57,000,000 have significantly eased the strain on hard-pressed provincial and municipal budgets...."

"During the past five years the National Health Programme has assisted in the construction of new accommodation for 57,000 patients, nurses, and infants besides helping to increase laboratory and out-patient facilities in hospitals and reinforcing the work of hospitals by encouraging the building of health clinics of all kinds...."

EMPLOYMENT JUMP IN MAY: Employment levels in Canada again moved sharply upwards during May, the Department of Labour reported on June 17. The number of people working full time increased markedly for the second successive month while those not working but in the labour force declined substantially. Labour surpluses dwindled rapidly during the month in most localities. By the first of June labour demand and supply were in approximate balance in 80 of the 115 labour market areas in the country. Employers in some seasonal industries in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces were finding it difficult to recruit in their immediate localities all the help needed. In these cases labour was being drawn from other areas and immigrants were being hired. On the two coasts, labour surpluses continued although they were by now much reduced from winter levels.

MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES: Value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturers at the end of March was \$3,856,100,000, slightly below the preceding month's \$3,863,800,000, but up from last year's corresponding total of \$3,752,200,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

A.A.F. APPOINTMENT: Group Captain I.C. (Cy) Cornblat, 39, of Ottawa, left for Europe last week to take up duties with the Allied Air Forces Central Europe as Director of Manpower and Organization at AARCE Headquarters, Fontainebleau, France, it has been announced by Air Force Headquarters.