

MR. CHEVRIER ON TRANSPORTATION: "With our physical and geographical characteristics, our vast distances and comparatively small population. I believe it to be indisputable that the essence of our economic well-being is transportation," stated the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, speaking at a luncheon given by the Royal Montreal Curling Club during which he dealt with aviation, water transportation and railways.

In the Minister's opinion, aviation was rapidly becoming a well-established industry in Canada with relatively little assistance from the Government. "As knowledge of the science of aeronautics broadens, there is no doubt that aircraft will fill an increasingly important role as an agency of transport."

The rapid progress of civil aviation in Canada was indicated by the rise of operating revenues for all domestic air services from \$17,000,000 in 1945 to more than \$38,000,000 in 1949. Trans-Canada Airlines accounted for about 65 per cent of all domestic air revenues, and although it has experienced deficits the Minister was "hopeful that the extensive efforts which the company is devoting to increased efficiency and reduced costs, mean that it has now reached a turning point in the domestic picture." Canadian Pacific Airlines, which accounts for 17 per cent of domestic air revenues, had consolidated and standardized its operations within Canada to a point where "a deficit position has gradually been changed to a profit position in 1949".

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

In terms of international operations, the Minister said that "our growth has been even more impressive than in the domestic field". He stated that "progress towards stable international air operations on a sound economic footing must of necessity be slow," and emphasized "that the Canadian Government was not seeking extensive expansion of international air service by Canadian air lines at the expense of the taxpayer." The services already established represent in our opinion, lines which are designed to serve our most important national interests and expansion will not be undertaken lightly."

With respect to Canadian ocean shipping, the Minister stated that it was the hope of Government that its shipping policy would ensure "that Canada had at her disposal adequate ocean-going shipping to meet her requirements in a time of war;" would "maintain the ownership and control of the present deep-sea fleet;" and would "keep about 1,600 seamen actively employed as a nucleus on which to enlarge in time of need."

The Government's shipping policy was calculated to "enable approximately 40 ships to be kept in operation under the Canadian Flag" and "envisages the transfer of about 65 vessels to United Kingdom registry."

CZECH PRESS ATTACKS CBC: The CBC announced on February 16 that the Soviet controlled Czech press has again attacked the CBC International Service. In an almost identically phrased article published in Prague, Brno and Ostrava newspapers, states the announcement, the Czech press claims that "the British and Canadian radio in their usual untruthful way have distorted the report about the expulsion of two employees of the military attaché of the Canadian Legation in Prague."

"This is undoubtedly a dictated official line and does not worry us, it is further proof that our broadcasts to Czechoslovakia are taken seriously and are monitored carefully."

"The Danko-Vanier incident was covered in our news transmissions in which we broadcast only the facts of the case," stated officials of the Voice of Canada after they had received the Czech press clippings.

When the two expelled Canadians were interviewed on their return to Ottawa, they told newsmen that CBC programmes were "much appreciated" by the Czech people.

Canada sends shortwave broadcasts to Czechoslovakia four times daily.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES: The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, spoke in the Town of Sioux Lookout, in honour of the Official Opening of the new Indian Hospital, on February 17. The following are some excerpts from his review of Canada's Indian Health Services:

"Five years ago Canada's expenditures on the health of Indians and Eskimos totalled little over \$2,000,000. This present year they total \$10,700,000 - a five-fold increase in five years...."

"To discharge, on behalf of the people of Canada, this voluntarily accepted responsibility for the health of our Indians and Eskimos, we have a trained staff of 1,000 in Indian Health Services, including 60 medical officers, 5 dental surgeons, 65 graduate nurses in the field and 125 nurses in departmental hospitals...."

"A truly outstanding achievement - and one that is a good gauge of the quality of our health workers in the field - is that almost 75% of Canada's entire native population was given a chest X-ray in 1949. In the Sioux Lookout Agency the figure reached 90%. Our goal now is to check every individual, no matter how remote, at least once every two years."

"Tuberculosis among Indians and Eskimos is being brought under control. In addition, full-scale efforts are being made to prevent other communicable diseases such as diphtheria, whooping cough, smallpox, and typhoid-like diseases. Against these diseases our native population gets at least as good protection as that given any group in Canada...."