

**SECURITY TRANSACTIONS:** Portfolio security transactions between Canada and other countries in the second quarter of 1953 led to a capital outflow of \$76,000,000 in contrast to inflows of \$97,000,000 in the first quarter and \$102,000,000 in the same three months of 1952, according to the Bureau's monthly report.

New issues of Canadian securities in the second quarter of this year, totalling \$50,000,000, were well below the high level record in the preceding quarter and were more than offset by the retirements of \$92,000,000 which were dominated by the repurchase by the Government of Canada in May of \$75,000,000 of 3/63 (External Loan). This special transaction accounted for most of the net outflow in the quarter and was also the principal factor contributing to the decrease in Canada's official holdings of gold and U.S. dollars which occurred in this period.

Trade in outstanding Canadian issues led to an outflow of \$36,000,000 in the quarter, reflecting largely \$49,000,000 net repurchases of Government obligations and \$14,000,000 net sales of corporate stocks and bonds. Net repatriation from the United States through trading was actually of the order of \$49,000,000 as there were significant sales balances with the United Kingdom and other overseas countries. On balance, Canadians continued to liquidate holdings of foreign securities during the quarter.

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**CANADIANS IN ANTWERP:** Canadian soldiers returned to Belgium on August 25 in a move that has been hailed by the Antwerp press as "The return of old friends".

The move from 27 Brigade Headquarters in Hanover, Germany, to Antwerp involved only 120 men, and places the Brigade's administrative echelon well to the rear of any possible sphere of action.

Headquarters of the new Canadian base is the former convent Notre Dame de Sion, a large marble-pillared building in the centre of the city. The Canadian Army has taken out a three-year lease on the building from the Belgium Government, under terms of the NATO agreement.

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**WHEAT VISIBLE UP SHARPLY:** Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on August 14 amounted to 281,736,000 bushels, steeply above last year's corresponding total of 181,721,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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**ANTIBIOTICS RESEARCH:** Aided by the federal Government, the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, is carrying out extensive research into the use of the newer antibiotics and ways of preventing the development of resistance to them.

**U. S. OFFICERS TO VISIT:** A group of senior United States Army officers has been invited to visit Canadian Army establishments during the first week in September.

The party will consist of approximately 40 officers of the rank of colonel and lieutenant-colonel whose military appointments are concerned with the movement of personnel and equipment between Canada and the United States and similar duties of mutual military interest.

They will visit Army Headquarters in Ottawa as well as other service centres including Toronto, Camp Borden and Camp Valcartier with the object of familiarizing themselves with Canadian Army practices and procedures. They will also see something of Canada's productive capacity and industrial potential.

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**FEWER STRIKES:** Preliminary figures for July show 30 strikes and lockouts involving 7,396 workers, with a time loss of 73,486 man-working days. This compared with 31 strikes and lockouts for the previous month involving 6,452 workers and a time loss of 57,346 days. In July of 1952, there were 54 strikes and lockouts with 56,263 workers involved and a time loss of 888,243 days.

For the first seven months of this year there were 99 strikes and lockouts involving 24,097 workers and a time loss of 283,924 days. Comparative figures for 1952, were 150 strikes and lockouts with 97,561 workers involved and 2,217,396 days lost, the Department of Labour has announced.

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**BILLION DOLLAR RETAIL SALES:** Sales of Canada's retail stores topped the billion-dollar mark for the third straight month in June to send the half-year sales total well above five and a half billion dollars, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported August 19. June sales were up 5.7 per cent to \$1,044,645,000 from \$988,109,000 last year (in the first half of 1952 sales were over a billion dollars only in May), and the six-month total was 6.5 per cent higher at \$5,638,808,000 as against \$5,295,341,000 a year earlier.

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**OLD AGE SECURITY:** The number of persons receiving old age security payments in Canada passed the 700,000 mark in July, statistics released by the federal welfare Department show. This figure is an increase of almost 84,000 since the first payments of \$40 per month without regard to income were made to persons 70 years and over in January, 1952. Payments, made entirely from federal funds, now total more than \$28,000,000 per month.

The number of persons receiving payments in July was 701,565.