

LABOUR INCOME UP: With a substantial gain from increases in employment and average earnings boosted heavily by the payment of retroactive increases to employees of Canada's two main railways Canadian labour income rose sharply to an estimated total of \$651,000,000 in September from \$604,000,000 in August. During the first nine months of this year labour income aggregated \$5,142,000,000 as compared with \$4,470,000,000, an increase of 15 per cent, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

Lump-sum payment of the 17 cent per hour wage increase for the period from March 1 to July 31, by the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways, accounted for \$31,000,000 of the \$47,000,000 increase between August and September. The effect of the retroactive increases was reflected throughout the large network of enterprises owned and operated by the railway systems. Employees engaged in the operation of the railways and their shipping services received \$22,000,000 of the increase, while those employed in locomotive, repair and other related shops, hotels and a number of small establishments accounted for the remainder.

The index of employment in the nine leading non-agricultural industries rose 0.4 per cent from 132.5 at September 1 to 133.1 at the end of the month. Over the same period average weekly earnings in these industries went up 86 cents to \$41.67 at October 1. These increases caused substantial relative gains in total salaries and wages in manufacturing, trade and forestry. Seasonal harvesting operations raised labour income in agriculture.

Labour income in September was as follows by groups, totals for August being in brackets (millions of dollars): agriculture, logging, fishing, trapping, mining, \$52 (\$49); manufacturing, \$217 (\$202); construction, \$48 (\$48); utilities, transportation, communication, storage, trade, \$183 (\$155); finance, services, including government, \$121 (\$121); supplementary labour income, \$31, (\$29).

WIRE NAIL PRODUCTION: Production of iron and steel wire nails rose to a new all-time monthly high in October, the month's output amounting to 7,974 tons. This compares with the preceding month's figure of 7,798 tons and 7,443 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. During the first 10 months of this year, 71,269 tons were produced as against 64,102 in the similar period last year.

Shipments of iron and steel wire nails reached the highest monthly total since October last year. This year's October total amounted to 8,072 tons as against 8,058 in September and 8,241 in October, 1947. Cumulative shipments for the year to date amounted to 73,778 tons compared with 65,107 in 1947.

Production of steel wire amounted to 28,064 tons in October compared with 28,619 in September and 29,489 in October last year, bringing

the aggregate for the 10 months to 265,739 tons against 262,124 last year.

Output of steel wire fencing in October totalled 1,710 tons as compared with 1,613 in September and 2,297 in October, 1947. In the 10-month period, production amounted to 20,006 tons as against 21,772 in the same months last year.

ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR OUTPUT: Canadian manufacturers have maintained a high rate of output of domestic washing machines and electric refrigerators so far this year, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics.

Up to the end of October, the production of washing machines totalled 261,323 units as compared with 173,727 in the first 10 months of 1947, while in the same period, 112,472 electric refrigerators were produced compared with 79,188.

In October, 28,958 washing machines were produced -- second highest monthly total this year -- as against 21,701 in October a year ago. The month's output of electric refrigerators reached a record high of 12,736 units compared with 7,999 a year ago.

RUBBER PRODUCTION: Consumption of rubber was slightly higher in October, total for the month standing at 14,223,000 pounds as compared with 13,642,000 in September, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Natural rubber consumption amounted to 7,889,000 pounds compared with 7,534,000, synthetic 3,702,000 pounds compared with 3,607,000, and reclaim 2,632,000 pounds compared with 2,500,000.

In terms of end-product use, the consumption of rubber in the production of tires and tubes, including tire repair material, increased by 380,600 pounds, and in rubber footwear by 250,000 pounds. In the production of wire and cable, the consumption decreased by 24,100 pounds and in other products by 25,500 pounds.

Domestic production of synthetic rubber was lower in October, amounting to 6,628,000 pounds compared with 9,287,000 pounds in September, while the output of reclaim rose to 786,000 pounds from 771,000.

Month-end stocks of natural rubber rose to 17,270,000 pounds from the September total of 14,860,000. Stocks of synthetic rubber fell from 10,907,000 pounds to 8,517,000, and reclaim from 4,077,000 pounds to 3,922,000.

CARLOADINGS: The decline in carloadings on Canadian railways was continued during the week ending December 11 when the total was 76,105 as compared with 81,321 in the preceding week and 78,918 in the corresponding week last year. Loadings of live stock declined from 3,110 cars last year to 2,239 cars, fresh meats and packing house products from 984 to 744 cars, coal from 7,339 to 6,638 cars, pulp-wood from 4,000 to 2,729 cars, lumber from

4,397 to 3,246 cars, gasoline and oils from 4,012 to 3,790 cars, and miscellaneous freight from 5,643 to 5,297 cars. Ores increased from 2,177 to 2,590 cars, iron and steel products from 1,487 to 1,616 cars, fertilizers from 628 to 836, and l.c.l. merchandise from 18,061 cars to 18,750 cars.

NEW FIREFLY V'S: H.M.C.S. "Magnificent" will sail from Halifax to the United Kingdom in mid-January for the purpose of exchanging the Firefly Mark IV aircraft of 825 Squadron of the Royal Canadian Navy for new Firefly V's, it was announced December 16 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

The Fairey Firefly V, an all-metal, two-seat monoplane, powered with a Rolls-Royce Griffon engine, will become the standard anti-submarine aircraft for the Royal Canadian Navy. It is equipped with four 20 m.m. cannon, radar, and the latest airborne anti-submarine devices, and is an efficient hunter of modern type submarines.

Earlier Firefly models filled a more diversified role as fighter-reconnaissance bombers and, while capable of dealing with submarines, were not especially designed or fitted for this function.

While the carrier is in the United Kingdom, pilots and observers of 825 Squadron will attend a course at the Royal Navy's anti-submarine school at Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The course will deal, amongst other things, with aircraft tactics and joint air and surface operations against submarines.

The "Magnificent" will return to Canada at the end of February and will disembark the squadron at Halifax for a period of shore training at H.M.C.S. "Shearwater", the R.C.N. Air Station at Dartmouth, N.S.

COAL PRODUCTION UP: Coal production in Canada during November amounted to 1,837,500 tons, an increase of 88,800 tons over the 1,748,700 tons produced in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative output for the first 11 months of this year totalled 16,507,500 tons as against 14,100,300 a year earlier.

Production of coal in the month was higher in all areas with the exception of Saskatchewan. Nova Scotia's output amounted to 573,500 tons compared with 546,700 a year ago, New Brunswick 49,500 tons compared with 44,900, Saskatchewan 124,800 tons compared with 205,600, Alberta 927,500 tons compared with 803,700, and British Columbia and the Yukon 162,200 tons compared with 147,900.

Imports of coal during November declined from November, 1947, amounting to 3,064,900 tons as against 3,188,600. During the 11 months ending November, 29,767,500 tons were imported compared with 28,049,100 in the same months last year.

"THE CANADIAN ARMY, 1939-45": The official historical summary of the part played by Canadian soldiers in the Second World War, published recently under the title "The Canadian Army, 1939-45", still is being picked up at the rate of more than a hundred copies a week by serious minded Canadians across the country. So great has been the demand that the original printing of 10,000 copies of the book is almost exhausted, necessitating a second printing of 5,000 copies which now is being turned out.

The book was compiled and written by Colonel C.P. Stacey of the Army's Historical Section at Ottawa. The volume, as military authorities explained some months ago when the book first appeared, is a historical summary of the activities of Canadians in the war and not an official history of the conflict. While a voluminous "official" account of the part played by Canadian troops now is being prepared, it will be some time yet before it is completed.

Sales of an earlier series of three small volumes recounting the exploits of Canada's soldiers in England, Normandy, Sicily and Italy, now has topped the 78,000 mark, it was stated. Printed in both French and English, they are profusely illustrated.

CHRISTMAS EVE, 1944: Four years ago, on Christmas Eve, 1944, Canadian soldiers serving in Italy drove the enemy back across the flooded Senio River to win for themselves something priceless in war -- a quiet, almost peaceful Christmas.

Describing that Christmas along the nine miles of river front held by the Canadians, Col. C.P. Stacey, in his historical summary entitled "THE CANADIAN ARMY, 1939-45" writes:

"On Christmas Day, in striking contrast to the bloody Ortona fighting of the previous year, the line was very quiet. Let a Corps diarist describe it:

'The 1 Cdn Corps sector was the only part of the Italian front where there was not a white Christmas. A wary truce was observed on both banks of the Senio, except on the 2 Canadian Infantry Brigade front. The Germans serenaded Seaforth of Canada with carols on Christmas Eve and one Jerry put his head over the river dyke long enough to wish the Canadians a guttural 'Merry Christmas'. Our troops replied with their version of 'Frohliche Weinacht'. Encouraged, the Germans tried a little propaganda, calling on our troops to surrender. Our counter-propaganda was an artillery 'stunk' on the German positions ...'

"At the 1st Division's headquarters an officer wrote rather wistfully of the Christmas lull: 'Tomorrow we return to the cold reality of war and all its ugliness, but we won't forget Christmas 1944 because for 24 hours men became human again and war seemed very far away, almost forgotten.'"