



CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 4 No. 28

May 20, 1949

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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

DEPARTMENTAL APPOINTMENTS: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on May 19 appointment by the Civil Service Commission of Mr. Léon Mayrand and Mr. Herbert Owen Moran as Assistant Under-Secretaries of State for External Affairs. Mr. Mayrand was formerly Head of the American and Far Eastern Division of the Department of External Affairs and Mr. Moran was Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary.

Mr. Mayrand was born in Montreal in 1905. He was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1929 and obtained his diploma from l'Ecole des Sciences Politiques in Paris in 1931 and his doctorate of laws from the University of Montreal in 1933. He was on the staff of "La Patrie" from 1933 to 1934. Mr. Mayrand joined the Department of External Affairs in 1934 and has served in London, Rio de Janeiro and Moscow as well as in Ottawa. He was a member of the Canadian Delegation to the second part of the third session of the United Nations General Assembly which has just concluded its meeting at Lake Success.

Mr. Moran was born in Peterborough in 1908. A graduate of the University of Toronto, he studied at Osgoode Hall and was called to the Ontario Bar in 1935. He practised law in Toronto. Mr. Moran served overseas for five and a half years and in 1945 became Officer I/C, Canadian Section Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine. He retired from the army with the rank of Colonel, joined the Department and became Head of the Economic Division. He

was appointed Special Assistant to the Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in October, 1948.

PRAIRIES CROP REPORT: Continued dry weather and high temperatures are causing rapid deterioration of moisture reserves throughout the Prairie Provinces. In large areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta rain is urgently needed to promote germination and is generally needed throughout the west to promote growth. Seeding is well advanced but has been brought to a halt in many areas where drought is severe. Grasshoppers are hatching rapidly in many southern areas and control measures are under way in the most seriously affected districts, according to the Bureau of Statistics' report of May 17.

Growth of crops in Manitoba has been very satisfactory to date. Reserve moisture is being rapidly depleted, however, and general rains are greatly needed.

While about 83 per cent of Saskatchewan's wheat crop is now in the ground, seeding has been brought to a halt in many areas in the south, southwest and northeast of the Province, where the moisture deficiency is particularly severe.

Alberta suffered from warm, dry, windy weather during the past week. A general rain is needed badly throughout the Province to promote germination. Moisture supplies are fair to good on summer fallow fields, while stubble seeded fields are dry.

R.C.A.F. SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM

LARGEST IN HISTORY: RCAF training centres across Canada are busy preparing for the largest peacetime summer training program in Air Force History, with more than 800 students from universities and colleges in different parts of the country ready to begin special summer courses shortly. Included will be over 50 Air Force cadets from the Canadian Services Colleges.

This influx of university and college trainees will be in addition to normal year-round training for Regular Force members, which is continuing at an ever-increasing tempo. The summer will also see the usual camp periods for Royal Canadian Air Cadets, the resumption of flying training for air cadets under the scholarship plan, and camp periods for the Auxiliary Squadrons.

Largest single group from the universities will be that comprising members of the University Flights, organized last autumn. Three hundred cadets from these flights will spend up to 24 weeks at various RCAF units receiving contact training in various technical trades. A total of 100 are expected to arrive shortly at Trenton, Ont., from Toronto University, McGill University, and the University of Western Ontario. Two-hundred more will report to Abbotsford, B.C., from the Universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

The University Flight cadets will remain at Trenton and Abbotsford for an 8-week introductory course, and will then go to various units, according to their university course and the line of Air Force work in which they are interested. Members of the University Flights, upon successful completion of their University course, and on finishing three consecutive summer training periods, are offered commissions in the Regular, Auxiliary, or Reserve RCAF. They receive the pay of Pilot Officer during their summer training.

Well over 200 veteran RCAF officers, most of them former aircrew, will return to Air Force stations under the Summer Employment Plan, going into its third year. Under this plan, veteran officers having entered university after leaving the RCAF, are taken back during their summer holidays on a reserve

basis, and are engaged in a line of work closely connected with their university course. On graduation from university they are retained as officers in the Regular, Auxiliary or Reserve RCAF. This plan is limited to those officer-veterans taking certain university courses and planning to retain their affiliation with the RCAF, upon graduation. They return as officers for the summer training, usually one rank below that which they held on discharge.

Nearly 120 more University undergraduates will report to Air Force stations to receive summer aircrew training as the University Air Training Plan goes into its third year. The University Air Training Plan itself is concerned only with straight aircrew training of university undergraduates, although aircrew trainees are enrolled in a University Flight, if a Flight exists at the University which they are attending.

A total of 65 UATP cadets will report early in May for pilot training. Of these, 24 will go to Trenton, where they will receive first-year flying instruction. The remainder, who have already had one or two years summer pilot training, will report to Centralia, Ont. Accompanying the first-year trainees will be 30 Air Force cadets from Royal Roads and Royal Military College.

Thirty-six more UATP students will take radio-officer training at Clinton, Ont., together with six Canadian Service Colleges (Royal Roads and Royal Military College) cadets. The Royal Roads and Royal Military College cadets, and six of the UATP trainees, will, for the first time, be taking the radio-officer summer training.

The RCAF's Air Navigation School at Summerside, P.E.I., will receive 16 UATP trainees and 10 cadets from the Canadian Services Colleges, all taking the navigation officer training for the first summer.

The university students taking the summer flying training agree to accept commissions in the Regular, Auxiliary or Reserve RCAF after graduation and after successfully completing three summer training periods. Both UATP undergraduates and CSC cadets receive officer rates of pay during the summer instruction.

Despite the decline from February, the index number of employment, on the base 1926=100, was at a new high for late winter, standing at 189.2 compared with 190.5 at the first of February and 188.9 at March 1 last year.

Accompanying the minor recession in employment generally at March 1 as compared with February 1 was a decrease of 0.2 per cent in the index of weekly payrolls. As compared with March 1 last year, however, there was a rise of 9.5 per cent.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: Industrial employment in Canada at the beginning of March was at a slightly lower level than at February 1, according to data furnished the Bureau of Statistics by 19,938 leading firms in the eight major industrial divisions whose working forces declined 0.7 per cent in the month. The trend has been downward at March 1 in seven of the last 10 years, the latest percentage loss being slightly greater than the average in the decade.

INCREASED WHEAT ACREAGE ON PRAIRIES

FIRST CROP REPORT: With few exceptions the spring season is considerably advanced throughout Canada in comparison with a year ago, states the Bureau of Statistics in the first of its 1949 series of telegraphic crop reports.

Seeding has commenced in the Maritimes and conditions throughout eastern and central Canada are favourable. In the Prairie Provinces moisture is deficient over wide areas, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Seeding is well advanced but rains are needed to promote germination and to allow satisfactory completion. In British Columbia the weather has been warm and seeding is ahead of last year. Moisture is generally ample and fruit crop prospects are excellent.

The growing season in the Maritime Provinces is from 10 days to two weeks in advance of last year. The land is drying rapidly and spring work is getting underway in some areas. Seeding is expected to be general within the next week or two.

Except in northern areas, seeding started around the first of May in most sections of Quebec and has progressed rapidly under favourable conditions. Unusually warm weather has promoted rapid growth of meadows and pastures which came through the winter in generally excellent condition.

Early season indications point to excellent crop prospects in Ontario in 1949. Fall wheat and fall rye wintered well and only moderate damage to hay and clover meadows has been reported. Cool weather during April had a retarding influence on growth of fall-sown

TRADE OFFICE AT MANILA: Opening of a new office of the Trade Commissioner Service in the Philippines, at Manila, was announced on May 13 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe.

F.H. Palmer, formerly Commercial Counsellor at Stockholm, will proceed to Manila this autumn to open this new post, the 45th in a network of Canadian trade offices throughout the world.

Canadian trade with the Philippine Islands has increased from \$1.8 million in 1938 to more than \$16 million last year, \$9.8 million of which comprised Canadian exports. Canada's principal imports from the Philippines include copra, manila fibre, coconut and chrome ore.

Among the main products Canada sells to the Philippines are wheat flour, canned fish, fertilizers, lumber and newsprint, apples and mining machinery.

"Since the end of the war, Canada has been the Philippines second most import source of supply", Mr. Howe stated, "and it is expected that Canadian sales to this dollar market will expand as the new republic develops".

cereals, meadows and pastures but this was more than offset by record high temperatures in May. Development of these crops since the first of May has been rapid and satisfactory yields are anticipated. About half the intended acreage of spring crops had been seeded by April 30 and approximately 75 per cent by May 7.

While official estimates on acreage intentions for the 1949 crops will not be released until May 12, it is evident that significant increases in wheat acreages and sharp declines in sowings of flaxseed and rye will occur in most areas of all three Prairie Provinces. The proportion of intended acreages seeded to date is far in advance of last year when cold, wet weather seriously delayed seeding operations. This year, however, the soil is extremely dry, particularly over wide areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta, with precipitation both prior to and subsequent to April 1 far below normal. Immediate rains are already required in many districts to promote germination and growth.

Although the growing season got away to a slow start in British Columbia this year, it has now advanced to the point where it is considered to be about average. During the past week the weather has been generally warm and the seeding of wheat and coarse grains is considerably ahead of that of a year ago. Moisture supplies appear to be ample in all districts except the Okanagan where irrigation has been started on the lighter soils. Present prospects for fruit crops are excellent.

F.H. Palmer, of Halifax, attended Dalhousie University and received his B.Sc. (Civil Engineering) degree from Nova Scotia Technical College. During World War 1, he served overseas with the Royal Canadian Artillery, and was awarded the M.C. Joining the Trade Commissioner Service in 1921, he has been stationed in New York, Rotterdam, Milan, Oslo, Bristol, Melbourne and Chungking. His present post is Stockholm, where he is Chargé-d'Affaires. A keen sportsman, Mr. Palmer helped to introduce the game of Canadian ice hockey to Norway, and at one time was amateur golf champion of that country.

YUKON OLD AGE PENSIONS: An agreement providing for the first time for the payment of old age and blind pensions in the Yukon Territory has just been signed, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, announced on May 13.

"With the completion of an agreement with the Yukon Territory, the benefits of the federal Old Age Pensions Act now extend to

NORTH ATLANTIC WEATHER SHIP NETWORK

every province and territory of Canada for the first time since the Act was passed in 1927," Mr. Martin stated.

Under the present agreement, signed by J.E. Gibben, Commissioner for the Yukon Territory, and effective from April 9, the basic rate of pension is \$30 per month. Three-quarters of the cost of pensions is payable by the federal Government. About 120 persons are estimated to be eligible for pension.

Extension of pension payments to the Yukon is expected to add about \$32,000 annually to the federal pensions budget.

Mr. Martin pointed out that the negotiations with the Yukon Territory were conducted prior to the recent amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act. By that amendment the maximum basic pension to which the federal Government could contribute was raised from \$30 to \$40 monthly with the federal share continuing at 75 per cent.

MR. LAFLECHE'S APPOINTMENT: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, announced on May 12 the appointment of Major-General the Honourable L.R. LaFlèche, D.S.O. as High Commissioner for Canada in Australia to succeed Mr. Kenneth A. Greene, O.B.E., who is returning to Canada.

General LaFlèche has been Canadian Ambassador in Greece since 1945 and during the latter part of his service was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Athens. He served with distinction in the First Great War and was later President of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. In 1932 he was appointed Deputy Minister of National Defence and in 1940 was appointed Canadian Military Attaché in France. General LaFlèche was Deputy Minister of the Department of National War Services until 1942 when he was appointed Minister of that Department.

General LaFlèche will leave Athens in July and will visit Canada en route to his new post.

MCKEE TROPHY AWARD: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, on May 13, announced the award of the McKee Trans-Canada Trophy for 1948 to Flying Officer R.B. West, DFC, AFC, of Canning, N.S., one of the RCAF's outstanding Search and Rescue pilots. Now engaged on recruiting duties at Rivers, Man., F/O West was employed on Search and Rescue operations on the East Coast from the War's end until last February.

The McKee Trans-Canada Trophy has been given annually since 1927 for meritorious service in advancement of aviation in Canada, and the award to F/O West marks the third time it has been won by a serving RCAF officer. The award for 1946 was won by Group Captain Z.L. Leigh, OBE, FD, now Group Commander of the RCAF's Vancouver Headquarters. It had previously been won in 1934 by Flight Lieutenant (now Group Captain) E.G. Fullerton, AFC, of Exeter,

Ont., now retired.

The trophy was donated by the late Dalzell McKee of Pittsburg, Pa., a wealthy aviation enthusiast who made the first Trans-Canada flight by sea-plane, in 1926. He was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal A.E. Godfrey, MC, DFC, of Gananoque, Ont., now retired. McKee established the award in recognition of the welcome and assistance given him by the RCAF during his flight.

This year's winner, F/O West, is a wartime veteran with more than 2000 hours of flying on Search and Rescue operations alone. He has taken part in many mercy missions on the East Coast, including two flights made in January, 1948, to Mutton Bay and Harrington Harbour, P.Q., on the north shore of the St. Lawrence. Both these flights, to evacuate persons requiring immediate hospitalization, were made under extremely difficult conditions and their successful completion resulted in the award of the Air Force Cross to F/O West. He had previously won the Distinguished Flying Cross for wartime flying operations on the East Coast.

AMBASSADOR OF PERU: The Department of External Affairs announced that Mr. Manuel Cacho-Sousa presented on May 12 to His Excellency the Governor General at Government House, his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Peru.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, was present. Dr. Teodosio Cabada, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of Peru, Mr. Cesar A. de la Fuente, First Secretary, and Dr. José Alvarado-Sanchez, Third Secretary, accompanied the Ambassador.

Mr. Howard Measures, Chief of Protocol, Department of External Affairs, presented Mr. Cacho-Sousa to His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. Cacho-Sousa was for some time Deputy for Cajamarca and Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of Peru.

D.P.'S SATISFACTORY: Displaced Persons have found working conditions in the mines of North-western Ontario and Quebec highly satisfactory and have proven themselves able and willing employees, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, stated on May 11.

Mr. Mitchell referred to a report of the general manager of a large Ontario gold mine which showed that 84 per cent of the 172 D.P.'s secured through the Canadian Metal Mining Association had completed their contract and 92 per cent of all D.P.'s employed were still with the company. In addition, 53 D.P.'s who had completed their contract with timber companies, etc., had applied for and been given employment at this mine.

The manager said, "With very few exceptions, these men have demonstrated their appreciation of the opportunities afforded them in a free country."

THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT: Continued operation of the North Atlantic Ocean Weather ship network was assured on May 11 when member states of the International Civil Aviation Organization signed an agreement to cover the operation of the network for a three-year period from July 1, 1950. The agreement provides for ten stations to be operated by 25 ships of the following nations:

United States	14
Canada	1
United Kingdom	4
France	2
Netherlands	2
Norway	2

There will be a financial adjustment among participating nations with Belgium paying \$100,000. (£25,000) annually and Denmark paying \$92,000. (£23,000) annually to Norway toward the cost of operation of one station off the Norwegian coast. Another two nations -- Ireland and Portugal -- will make cash contributions of \$4,000. (£1,000) each annually to be applied toward the scheme in general.

The 10 stations of the network will continue to supply the meteorological data, communications and rescue services now being provided for North Atlantic air traffic under an ICAO agreement written in London in 1946 and expiring June 30, 1950. The old agreement provided for 13 stations but was never fully implemented. The new agreement will re-locate the stations for increased efficiency and economy of operation.

The ocean weather ship agreement resulted from one of the three conferences held concurrently in London by ICAO. Another conference adopted a plan for international financing of meteorological facilities in Greenland and a

FIVE D.P.'S DEPORTED: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced on May 16 that he had been advised by the Canadian representative of the International Refugee Organization that five persons brought to Canada from Displaced Persons Camps had been returned to the camps.

The persons had been deported for lack of co-operation and, the Minister stated, they had not measured up to the requirements of their occupations and their physical background had not been fully disclosed before coming to Canada.

Mr. Mitchell stated that out of the thousands of workers who had been brought to this country from the D.P. Camps, there were very few cases where it was necessary to send them back. The vast majority of these new Canadians have proven themselves to be faithful and conscientious workers but in a few cases there has been evidence that kindness and considera-

Loran (long range radio navigation aid) station in the Faroe Islands. The Government of Denmark which has been operating these facilities at the recommendation of ICAO states to a far greater extent than required by its own air services in the region, appealed to the International Civil Aviation Organization for financial assistance in maintaining them. The following nations have agreed to join in the scheme: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States.

The Council of ICAO is empowered by the agreement to work out the details with the Government of Denmark and to supervise operation of the scheme. For expenses incurred in this operation until the end of 1949, the Danish Government will receive \$1,770,000 (8,500,000 Danish kroner). As from January 1, 1950 the nations concerned will reimburse Denmark for 90% of the costs of operation, estimated for 1950 at \$770,000. (3,700,000 Danish kroner). The participating states will bear this financial burden on the basis of their share in North Atlantic air traffic.

The third conference considered a request from the Government of Greece for assistance in the rehabilitation of Ellinikon airport (near Athens) and other air navigation facilities in Greece. The appeal was referred back to the ICAO Council for further consideration. Participating in this meeting were Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

Chairman of the conference and of the Greek meeting was Sir Frederick Tymms (United Kingdom); Chairman of the Greenland and Faroe Islands meeting was Dr. Paul David (United States) and of the weather ships meeting Mr. C.S. Booth (Canada).

tion has been taken for weakness and in such cases the persons will be returned.

"CRESCENT" HOME-BOUND: H.M.C.S. "Crescent" is on the way home to Canada, it was announced by Naval Headquarters on May 12.

Despatched on a cruise to the Far East on January 28 to be available to assist in the evacuation of Canadian citizens should that prove necessary, the ship has since been in Chinese waters. The Canadian Ambassador to China has now reported that all Canadians desiring to leave have had ample opportunity and that no useful purpose would be served by having the "Crescent" continue to stand by. Accordingly, the "Crescent" is returning to Canada where it will take part in the Navy's summer training program.

NEW USE FOR GEIGER COUNTERS IN PROSPECTING

RADIOACTIVE ORE HUNT: As the new prospecting season gets under way, the search for radioactive materials is being resumed. Before the war, discovery of radioactive ore had been a hit-and-miss affair, based mainly on visual observation. Now, however, the Geiger-Mueller tube, which registers even trace amounts of radioactive substances, has made systematic radium and uranium prospecting possible.

The Division of Physics of the National Research Council of Canada is doing pioneer work on a radically new design, which weathered its first field trials successfully last year and should soon be ready for commercial use.

The new instrument is the logical outcome of a development which has been taking place, step by step, in the radiology section of the Division of Physics. While the Geiger-Mueller tube itself is small, its power requirements at first were disproportionately great and two men were needed to carry the heavy apparatus. The first step of the scientists handling this problem was to reduce the weight. Portable Geiger-Mueller counters were made possible by the new miniaturizing techniques used in the construction of electronic circuits. Some models of Geiger counters built now in the Physics Division weigh only six to eleven pounds, and one model is so compact that it

weighs only one pound and fits into the prospector's pocket.

The second step was to design an instrument that would not only detect surface deposits of radioactive minerals or analyze the core recovered from diamond-drill holes, but also explore the depths of the drill hole itself if, as it often happens, the core crumbles and is lost.

The third step was to find out whether such a miniature Geiger-Mueller probe would function properly when lowered into drill holes by means of a cable which sometimes has to be over a thousand feet long. The final step was to eliminate the interference from the cable itself since, by the capacity of the cable, the voltage pulse from the Geiger-Mueller tube is weakened and distorted. Success came at last only recently when it was discovered that the resistor coil in all circuits was needlessly large and it was found that the power of the resistor coil could be reduced to almost one-hundredth of its previous power.

By this innovation, the Physics Division of the National Research Council will be able to build the first foolproof drill-hole probe, to modernize and simplify all other Geiger-counter designs, and thus to continue in the vanguard of those who contribute most to the prospecting for radioactive minerals.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH: Grants totalling more than \$18,000 have been approved by the Department of National Health and Welfare for public health research work at the University of Toronto, the Minister, Mr. Martin, announced on May 17.

The funds, which are being allotted under the federal health plan, are to initiate two projects through the purchase of laboratory equipment.

The first deals with the study of the clinical uses of isotopes in the therapy of certain types of malignant disease and other types of disease that may lend themselves to this kind of treatment.

No work as yet has been done in Toronto in which radioactive isotopes have been used either in tracer studies or for therapy, Mr. Martin stated. A special laboratory and equipment will be required for the work which he described as "an important new approach to the diagnosis and treatment of disease." The study, expected to take from three to four years, will begin about July under the direction of Dr. J.A. Dauphinee, Professor of Pathological Chemistry.

The second project will concern the study of hormones and their relation to disease in humans and the application of this knowledge to clinical problems. It will be directed by Dr. A.G. Gornall, Assistant Professor of

Pathological Chemistry, who is now in the United Kingdom studying the latest developments in hormone research.

Both projects will be carried out in the Banting Institute, University of Toronto, and in the affiliated teaching hospitals of the University.

LABOUR LEGISLATION ADMINISTRATORS: In welcoming delegates to the Eighth Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation, which opened in Ottawa on May 16, Arthur MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Labour, asked the delegates to consider the possibility of a national conference on accident prevention similar to the conference called by President Truman in Washington earlier this year.

The Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation consists of all federal and provincial departments or boards charged with the administration of any labour law and has as its objective the promotion of higher standards of labour law administration and enforcement. Included is the promotion of greater uniformity in the legislative standards of the provinces through the exchange of information and annual conferences. The work of organizing the annual conference is carried out by the federal Department of Labour.

ICAO THIRD ASSEMBLY: The Third Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization will be held in Montreal, commencing June 7, 1949. Its duration is expected to be between two and three weeks.

The Fourth Session of the ICAO Legal Committee will be held in Montreal at the same time. On the agenda are such matters as Revision of the Warsaw and Rome Conventions, the legal aspects of search, assistance and rescue, and the avoidance of double insurance requirements.

CANSO ENGINEERING FEAT: Government approval has been given to a contract authorizing Foundation Maritime Limited of Halifax to make test borings in the Strait of Canso where the eight piers of proposed low-level railway and vehicular bridge will be constructed, according to an announcement by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. The test borings will consist of drilling holes on the centre line of the proposed bridge, and the Minister said that the work will start next month and is expected to be completed before the close of navigation.

Making the test borings will each provide an engineering feat, inasmuch as the average depth of the water at low tide is 185 feet, added to which is the strong tidal currents and the rise and fall of water levels.

To make the tests will require approximately 190 feet of casing to be lowered, weighing about 40 tons, and the erection of a working platform on which to mount the drilling machinery. The test borings will be carried out inside the casings, through the overlying soil and to a depth of ten feet into the bed-rock to ensure a foundation suitable for the bridge piers.

At the particular site selected for the bridge, which is located between Capé Porcupine on the mainland and Balache Point on Cape Breton Island, the Strait of Canso is only 3,000 feet in width. When completed, the bridge will have a clearance of 14 feet at high tide and will have a vertical lift span close to the Cape Breton shore, providing a clearance of 156 feet for the passage of shipping.

Re-allocation of railway lines and highways in the area will be undertaken with Canadian National Railway and provincial highway engineers.

NEW ARMY RADIO: "Ham" radio operators and others interested in wireless communications this week will get what is probably their first look at the Canadian Army's new "29 set" -- a radio set that, according to one Army Signals officer, is "far ahead of anything the Army has had to date".

The set will be exhibited in Army Week displays by a number of Army units across the country. Trained operators will demonstrate its capabilities.

Designed to supersede the well-known Army

"19"-set used throughout the war as standard tank and vehicle equipment in action, the "29" set differs in many respects but mainly in that it is lighter, is fully automatic, and has five to six times the power of the older set. It is exactly the same size and occupies no more space than the "19" set. Four electric motors, permitting automatic tuning, are installed within the frame in addition to the two dynamotors which power the set -- one the receiver, the other the transmitter.

Where the "19" set had a maximum power output of 5.6 watts, the new set has an output of approximately 25 watts. Range of the earlier radio was roughly 10-15 miles but the new sets will function readily up to 50 miles and up to 100 miles under certain conditions.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: Sales of new motor vehicles -- below 1948 levels in the first two months of the year -- jumped sharply upward in March, increasing 18 per cent in number and 29 per cent in value over the corresponding month last year. The month's gain was due mainly to larger sales of passenger cars. During the first three months of this year, sales rose six per cent in number and 17 per cent in dollar value above the similar period last year.

According to the Bureau of Statistics sales in March totalled 24,637 units retailing for \$52,359,305 compared with 20,974 which sold for \$40,688,378 in March, 1948. In the first quarter of this year, sales of 50,625 units for \$108,524,877 compared with 47,871 vehicles for \$93,180,503 a year earlier.

The number of passenger cars sold in March was 16,970 with a retail value of \$35,791,018 -- 25 per cent higher in number and 39 per cent in value than the 13,540 sold for \$25,668,823 a year earlier. There were 7,594 trucks sold in March valued at \$15,277,448 compared with 7,375 units with a value of \$14,002,789 last year, a gain of three per cent in number and nine per cent in value. Buses sold in March this year totalled 73 vehicles with a retail value of \$1,290,839 compared with 59 units sold for \$1,016,766 the year before, up 24 per cent in number and 27 per cent in value.

RAILWAY REVENUES: Continuing the gains of earlier months, railway revenues and expenses reached all-time record totals for the month in February. Operating expenses exceeded the relative advance in revenues, resulting in a decrease in net operating revenues.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, operating revenues in February totalled \$65,970,000, up 10.5 per cent over the same month last year. Operating expenses advanced from \$58,627,000 to \$65,771,000, an increase of 12.2 per cent, and the net operating revenues were \$199,400 compared with \$1,086,000.

Freight revenues improved \$6,559,000 or 13.7 per cent over the same month of 1948 to

total \$54,535,000, while express rose 10.9 per cent. Passenger fares were down \$226,000 or 4.1 per cent to \$5,312,000, while mail declined slightly and all other revenue account receded 11.6 per cent to \$2,552,000.

Tonnage of revenue freight carried was down 2.7 per cent at 12,285,000 against 12,628,000, while revenue tonnage mileage dropped by 3.1 per cent. The number of fare passengers aggregated 2,769,000 compared with 2,954,000 a year ago, a decline of 6.2 per cent, while the revenue passenger mileage fell 7.3 per cent. Empty freight car mileage registered a sharp increase over the preceding February, climbing 24.2 per cent, or some 12,660,000 miles, while loaded mileage declined six per cent.

Total pay roll advanced from \$33,952,000 to \$38,819,000 or 14.3 per cent, and the number of employees remained relatively unchanged.

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION: Canadian iron and steel production continued its upward climb during March, new monthly peaks being reached for pig iron and steel ingots.

Pig iron output for the month amounted to 202,130 tons, sharply above last year's output of 172,675 tons, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative output for the first three months of this year was 557,928 tons, an increase of 74,088 tons over the comparable production of 483,840 tons in 1948. Ferro-alloy output in March also registered a sharp gain, totalling 22,457 tons as against 14,293 a year earlier, making the three-month production 66,101 tons compared with 43,241 tons for January-March last year.

Combined output of steel ingots and castings in March rose to a high level, aggregating 298,461 tons as compared with 286,026 tons last year. Production for the three months totalled 842,439 tons against 782,398 tons last year. Steel ingot output was recorded at 287,885 tons compared with 275,349 a year earlier, and for the three months 812,881 tons compared with 753,300. Steel castings in March fell to 10,576 tons from 10,677 tons last year, while the cumulative output for the first quarter increased to 29,558 tons from 29,008 tons a year ago.

BORDER TRAFFIC: Highway traffic crossing the international boundary into Canada during March was six per cent heavier than in the same month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The increase was due to greater volume of Canadian traffic returning from the United States which rose 23 per cent. United States traffic entering Canada showed a minor decrease of less than one per cent.

First-quarter totals for this year place highway border crossings at 1,327,000, showing an advance of 12 per cent over the same period of 1948. As in March a large part of the rise was due to increased volume of returning Canadian traffic, up from 327,700 a year ago to 427,400.

FARM PRICES: The index number of farm prices of agricultural products continued its general downward trend in March, to reach its lowest level since May last year. The peak for this index was registered in August last year. At the March level, the index was 1.7 points below that of February, 12.9 points below August, but 3.6 points above May and 10.9 points higher than in March last year.

The index for March this year, on the base 1935-39, was 251.1 compared with 252.8 in February and 240.2 in March a year ago. As compared with the preceding month there were increases in provincial indexes for Alberta and British Columbia, but declines in the remaining provinces, while in the 12 months there were increases in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Compared with a year ago, March prices were higher for all agricultural products included in the general index except grains, potatoes, vegetables and furs. Compared with the preceding month, the decline of 1.7 points was largely attributable to a lowering of prices for dairy products and poultry and eggs.

WORLD GRAIN EXPORTS: World exports of grain and grain products during the first half of the current crop season were nearly five per cent greater than in the corresponding period of the previous (1947-48) season, totalling 17,938,600 long tons (in grain equivalent) as against 17,110,000 long tons.

Approximately 73 per cent of this season's first-half total consisted of breadgrains, namely wheat, including flour, and rye. Exports of these amounted to 13.1 million tons compared with 12.6 million tons in the first half of the 1947-48 year, according to the Bureau's monthly review of the wheat situation. Shipments from the United States accounted for 55.6 per cent of the breadgrain total compared with 55 per cent the previous year. Canada supplied 21.1 per cent against 23.8 per cent; Australia, 12.9 compared with six per cent; Argentina, 4.2 (10.9); and all other countries, 6.2 (4.3) per cent.

COST OF LIVING: Cost-of-living indexes for four of the eight regional cities recorded increases during March, two were unchanged and two moved lower, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Further recessions in food prices, notably butter, were counter-balanced by increases in clothing, home furnishings and services, miscellaneous items and rentals.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 5 amounted to 113,300,000 bushels, down 5,231,000 from the preceding week's total, but 43,884,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

MARGARINE PRODUCTION: Margarine production in Canada during the first four months of this year amounted to 18,069,000 pounds, according to the Bureau of Statistics which is now collecting figures on this product monthly. Output in January was 1,030,000 pounds, February 3,354,000, March 7,331,000, and April, 6,354,000.

Stocks of margarine held by manufacturers, and in cold storages and other warehouses at the beginning of May amounted to 948,000 pounds.

Production and stocks in Newfoundland are not included in the above totals, but will be shown when administrative arrangements for the collection of statistical data from that province have been completed.

LABOUR INCOME: Canadian labour income in February is estimated at \$605,000,000, down \$3,000,000 from January, but up \$56,000,000 or 11 per cent from the estimate for February 1948, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Increases in labour income from January to February occurred in manufacturing, transportation, communication and storage, finance and fishing. These increases, however, were overbalanced by decreases in all other industries.

Average weekly earnings for the nine leading non-agricultural industries increased from \$42.77 on February 1 to \$43.05 on March 1. Over the same period, however, employment in these industries showed a decrease which overbalanced the effect of higher average earnings upon labour income. The all-Canada cost-of-living index dropped one-fifth of one per cent from 159.5 on February 1 to 159.2 on March 1.

RCAF APPOINTMENT: Air Commodore F.R. Miller, CBE, formerly Air Officer Commanding the RCAF's Air Materiel Command, is to become Air Member for Operations and Training at Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa, it was announced on May 20, by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton. Air Commodore Miller, at present in Washington, D.C., where he is attached to the Canadian Joint Staff, takes over his new duties September 1, with the rank of Air Vice Marshal.

A/C Miller will take over as head of the Operations and Training Division from Air Vice Marshal C.R. Slemon, CB, CBE, who becomes Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command, Trenton, Ont., upon the retirement of Air Vice Marshal E.E. Middleton, CBE.

POLISH VETERANS: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, reported on May 19 that at least 250 of the Polish veterans who came to Canada in 1946 and 1947 for jobs on farms were now either operating farms for themselves or had well-laid plans for doing so in the future.

Approximately 80 of these men were in Ontario, with the remainder established in every province with the exception of Newfoundland.

Some of them had purchased their own acreage, while others had rented land or were operating farms on a crop-sharing basis.

PUREBREDS FOR ITALY: One hundred and twenty-five purebred Canadian Holstein-Friesian heifers will be leaving Montreal May 21 on the S.S. Marchport, bound for Italy, the Department of Trade and Commerce announced on May 18.

This order for Canadian Holstein-Friesian cattle was placed by Italian breeders, following smaller token shipments over the past six months.

In November, 1948, four Holstein-Friesian bulls, valued at \$15,000, were flown to Italy via New York, marking the first shipment of Canadian purebred cattle to that country. In March of this year, an additional eleven head of cattle were flown from Malton to Italy, the first such air shipment direct from Canada to Europe.

Italian breeders have expressed great satisfaction with Canadian purebred Holstein-Friesian cattle, and it is expected that further orders will be placed in this country.

FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH: Formation of an Advisory Committee on Forest Products Research to work closely with the Forest Products Laboratory, Ottawa, in the investigation of methods of wood utilization was announced on May 19 by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

Members of the Committee, representing various branches of the forest products industry, will make their experience and advice available in regard to work being carried out at the Laboratory, and suggest new lines of research in wood utilization.

RETAIL SALES HIGHER: Canadians stepped up their spending in retail stores in March, making purchases to the value of \$577,730,000 or six per cent more than in March last year, according to the monthly estimate by the Bureau of Statistics. The total was well ahead of both January and February when the respective figures were \$493,370,000 and \$469,520,000.

Aggregate dollar sales for the first quarter of this year stood at \$1,540,620,000 compared with \$1,482,410,000 in the same period of 1948, a gain of four per cent.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES: Department store sales advanced 27 per cent during the week ending May 7 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures issued by the Bureau of Statistics. Largest gain of 33 per cent was shown in Ontario, followed by Alberta with a rise of 31 per cent, the Maritimes 28 per cent, Manitoba 27 per cent, Quebec 23 per cent, British Columbia 22 per cent, and Saskatchewan 16 per cent.

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

MR. MAYRAND'S STATEMENT: Following is partial text of the statement on the question of refugees and displaced persons, made by Léon Mayrand, representative of Canada, in the Third Committee of the United Nations' General Assembly, on May 12, 1949:

"Unfortunately, -- or rather fortunately for this Committee -- I have not had sufficient warning of the precise nature of this debate to prepare a 38-page statement. Yet, since the honourable delegate of Poland has made direct references to my country, I feel that I should offer at least a brief answer.

"Canada has been a strong and consistent supporter of the International Refugee Organization and of its Preparatory Commission ever since their inception. My country is one of the larger contributors to the IRO budget and has received, and is still receiving, its fair share of non-repatriable refugees and displaced persons.

"I gather from the references which have been made to Canada by the Polish delegate today and by the representatives of Poland, Byelorussia and the Soviet Union during the Eighth Session of the Economic and Social Council (at which we were not present) -- I gather from those statements that they are attempting to show that refugees and displaced persons who came to Canada are being employed at lower wages than those paid to locally-hired help for similar work; that their working conditions are unsatisfactory; and that, in general, they are being discriminated against and exploited by their Canadian employers. Nothing, of course, could be farther from the truth; and the real facts, if these gentlemen are genuinely interested in knowing them, are, of course, readily available. I wonder if the true facts about working conditions in the countries which these representatives come from are also available. As a matter of fact, I know from experience that they are not available. It is clear to my delegation, Mr. Chairman, that statements of this nature are only made in an effort to confuse the true issues and to discredit the International Refugee Organization. I know that no one who objectively examines the facts will be fooled for one instant.

"Permit me to quote from the summary record of the 267th meeting of the Economic and Social Council. Mr. Tsarapkin, the Soviet representative is reported as saying:

"The fate of the unhappy refugees would, therefore, be forced labour in Brazil, Canada, Latin America and elsewhere, where uprooted from their native soil, they would remain without any rights."

"Well, if forced labour means that a person must work to earn a living and is thereby forced to get up in the morning and to rest at night, then that assertion is correct. If volunteering to go to Canada instead of to return to a place where the people are the tools of the state instead of the state being the servant of the people; if this is the real meaning of being 'uprooted from their native soil', then that assertion too is correct. If, 'without any rights' means freedom to leave the country whenever one wishes, freedom to marry whomever one chooses, freedom to read whatever one wishes and to listen to whatever radio program one wants to, then that assertion too is a correct one. On the basis of all this, the question as to whether the refugees coming to Canada are or are not 'happy' is one which the refugees themselves should be in a better position to answer than the representatives of Poland and the Soviet Union. Or perhaps the Polish and Soviet delegations are in possession of secret information on the state of happiness of the 64,860 misguided displaced persons who since April, 1947 were 'uprooted' from their native soil and 'forced' to come to Canada. I know I can say, with all the sincerity at my command, that the Canadian Government and indeed all Canadian citizens are sparing no effort to see that these unfortunate people, many of whom have already suffered so much, find in Canada a home and all that the word signifies.

"The Canadian Government adheres to the principle that refugees and displaced persons should not be forced to return to their countries of origin unless they are willing so to do. If they are so willing, then every assistance should be given them to return to their homes. This, we believe, is the policy which has been carried out faithfully by the International Refugee Organization, and any attempt to discredit this very worthwhile and most necessary humanitarian organization surely does not deceive anyone. The purposes behind these attempts are well-known. They are foreign to the principles, purposes and spirit of the United Nations as expressed in its Charter..."