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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, on July 6, issued the following statement:

The Minister of Finance Mr. Abbott, is leaving by air today for London for informal talks with United Kingdom and United States authorities and, subsequently, to represent the Government at the Meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers. The date on which the meeting will begin is now fixed for July 13.

Mr. M.W. Mackenzie, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Dr. G.S.H. Barton, Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, are flying to the United Kingdom at the same time as Mr. Abbott. They are both members of the United Kingdom-Canada Continuing Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs. The other two Canadian members of the Committee, Dr. W.C. Clark, Deputy Minister of Finance, and Mr. Dana Wilgress, High Commissioner for Canada, are already in London.

It will be remembered that this Committee was formed following the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps to Canada last September and held its first meeting last January. It was established as a means of ensuring continuity and close liaison between official representatives of the two countries.

The presence of these Canadian officials in London will afford opportunity for contacts and conversations with the United Kingdom members of the Committee. The extent of these conversations will naturally depend on circumstances as they develop.

RAINS IMPROVE CROPS: Rains have fallen over wide areas of the Prairie Provinces. Crop prospects in Manitoba remain generally excellent and material improvement is indicated in some sections of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Grain stands in Manitoba are heavy in most areas with nearly all early-seeded fields heading or in head. Rain is required, however, in the south-central portion of the Province around Morden where moisture supplies are still poor and lowered grain yields are anticipated.

Moisture conditions are much improved in the central part of Saskatchewan but the situation is little changed in the dry south-central and south-western districts.

Although the rains brought some relief to the drought affected areas in east-central Alberta, it is still too early to determine to what extent the crops have benefited. Conditions in west-central Alberta remain very dry and a tight feed situation is anticipated. The outlook in the south-western part of the Province and in the Peace River district is good, although further general rains will be needed to carry crops to maturity in all parts of Alberta.

Grasshoppers have been kept quite well in check in the affected areas of all three provinces.

Crop prospects in Ontario remain considerably below average as a result of drought.

In Quebec conditions are about average over most of the Province.

RECORD YEAR OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

CAPITAL GOODS EXPENDITURES HIGH: Canadian expenditures for capital goods in 1949 are now estimated at approximately 3.4 billion dollars, which is 11 per cent higher than the estimated actual expenditure of \$3 billion last year, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced on June 30.

The \$3.4 billion estimate is an upward revision of a forecast made at the beginning of the year by the Department of Trade and Commerce. The earlier forecast was for a total expenditure of \$3.3 billion.

LITTLE CHANGE IN PLANS

In releasing this report, which was prepared by the Economic Research and Development Branch of the Department with statistical assistance from the Bureau of Statistics, the Minister noted that the mid-year review indicated little change of investment plans by Canadian business, individuals, institutions and governments formulated six months ago.

If these investment plans are realized, 1949 will be a record year of investment activity in Canada. Most of the increase of investment indicated in the mid-year survey appears to be owing to greater availability of materials and labour and improved deliveries of machinery and equipment. While there appears to have been little change in the total demand for capital goods, investment plans of individual firms vary more significantly than in past years with some firms spending more than they expected and others less. On the whole, demand for capital goods remains strong. Where reduction in expenditures has occurred, the main reason given has been the high construction costs currently prevailing.

Other details of investment expenditures revealed by Mr. Howe were:

(1) The upward revision of this year's forecast of investment expenditures comprises an increase in construction expenditures of 2 per cent to \$2 billion, and of expenditures on machinery and other equipment of 6 per cent to \$1.4 billion. As a result, construction expenditures for 1949 are estimated to be 14

per cent greater and machinery and equipment expenditures 8 per cent greater than estimated actual expenditures in 1948.

(2) The 3 per cent upward revision of estimated investment expenditures for 1949 as shown in the mid-year survey comprises increases of 11 per cent in the primary industries and construction industry, 4 per cent in the commercial, merchandising and service group, 2 per cent in manufacturing, with the utilities group about unchanged. In the non-business sector, the direct expenditures of governments have been revised upward by 5 per cent, and of home builders by 3 per cent, while expenditures of institutions are slightly lower.

5 PER CENT INCREASE

(3) As closely as can be ascertained, the expected increase of 11 per cent in estimated total investment expenditures over the estimated realized expenditures in 1948 (\$3.4 billion compared with \$3 billion) will represent a 5 per cent increase in the physical volume of investment, the other 6 per cent being accounted for by higher prices prevailing in 1949.

(4) A regional breakdown is possible for manufacturing, mining, forestry, selected utilities and housing -- about half the total investment expenditures. There has been an upward revision of first-of-the-year estimates in this group of 7 per cent in British Columbia, 5 per cent in Quebec, and 3 per cent in both Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. In the case of the Maritimes the revision is downward by 11 per cent, nearly all of which would be accounted for by a downward revision of the residential construction estimates.

(5) In addition to the upward revision of new investment in building, machinery and other capital equipment, an upward revision is also indicated for repair and maintenance. At mid-year this type of expenditure at \$1.5 billion will be 2 per cent higher than forecast six months ago and 7 per cent more than the estimated expenditures in 1948.

AEROBATIC VAMPIRES: Canadian Vampire jet fighters will show the maple leaf roundel of the RCAF to large crowds at three air shows in the United States this summer, it was announced on June 30 by Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa. An aerobatic team of several Vampires from 410 Fighter Squadron of the Regular Force, stationed at St. Hubert, P.Q., performed at Orchard Field, Chicago, July 3 and 4, and will perform at Willow Run Field, near Detroit, August 6 and 7. A similar team of Vampires drawn from one of the Auxiliary Squadrons in Western Canada will fly at St. Paul, Minn., from August 28 to September 6.

The Vampires flying at the Chicago show

were accompanied by a Dakota carrying ground crew personnel for servicing the speedy jet fighters. The aircraft appeared at Chicago at the request of the American Air Force Association, which held a convention there.

The appearance of the St. Hubert aerobatic team at Willow Run will be in conjunction with the Michigan International Air Fair, and the performance of the Western Vampires at St. Paul will be before crowds attending the Minnesota State Fair.

Appearance of the Canadian jet fighters in the United States is a two-way arrangement, American Air Force planes having appeared at similar Canadian shows. Thirty-six F-51 aircraft of the USAF 107th Fighter Group, Niagara Falls, N.Y., flew over Hamilton on May 15, and numerous other American Air Force planes have appeared in Canada on various occasions.

MAGNIFICENT'S DAMAGE \$275,000: Survey to the hull of H.M.C.S. "Magnificent" has been completed at Saint John, N.B. drydock and cost of repair is expected to be somewhat less than \$275,000, it was announced at Naval Headquarters on June 30.

The aircraft carrier entered the drydock at Saint John on Saturday June 18 and a survey of damage was commenced immediately under the supervision of Constructor Commander C.V. Green, R.C.N., manager of the Constructor Department at H.M.C.S. Dockyard, Halifax.

The survey reveals it will be necessary to replace 26 plates which were damaged beyond repair and to repair another five plates making a total of 31 plates which were damaged either severely or slightly during the grounding. The damage extends over approximately 170 feet of the carrier's bottom.

Now that the damage has been surveyed repair work is expected to get underway soon and the drydocking job will take an estimated ten weeks.

EXPORT OF CHEESE: Permits for the export of all types of cheese to any destination will be granted freely, effective immediately, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced on June 30.

This decision results from the increase in production of cheddar cheese over last year, and the fact that there is every indication the United Kingdom contract for 50 million pounds will be filled in the near future.

MR. CLAXTON VISITS NEWFOUNDLAND: It was announced at National Defence Headquarters on June 30 that the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, would leave on Friday, July 1, by R.C.A.F. plane to visit Newfoundland.

On this visit Mr. Claxton inspected the Canadian Naval, Army and R.C.A.F. establishments, discussed arrangements with regard to the organization of reserve units and looked

into recruiting possibilities as well as examined the very considerable number of defence properties including those to be acquired from the British Admiralty.

In the course of the visit, he visited all the air fields on the island including the bases at Stephenville, Argentina and Fort Pepperall which the United States has under the lease made in 1941.

Mr. Claxton represented the Government of Canada in laying a wreath in connection with the ceremonies to commemorate the people of Newfoundland who gave their lives in the First World War, which were held at noon on Sunday, July 3.

These were attended by the crew of the Nootka and a detachment from the Canadian Army as well as by planes of the R.C.A.F.

Mr. Claxton was accompanied on this visit by Brigadier C.M. Drury, Deputy Minister of National Defence; Major-General E.G. Weeks, Commodore Bidwell of the Navy and Air Commodore Miller of the Air Force as well as by Brigadier H.L. Cameron, Defence Secretary.

TRAINING FOR UNEMPLOYED: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, reported on July 4 that 1,076 unemployed persons in various parts of Canada had received training to fit them for employment during the year ending March 31, 1949, under an agreement between the provinces and the federal Government.

Of this total, 535 were men and 541 were women and their combined training amounted to a total of 74,216 days, Mr. Mitchell pointed out.

Although the agreement had been accepted by all provinces, training had not been undertaken in Prince Edward Island, Quebec or Ontario, because the need for it was not thought to have developed, the Minister stated.

The Minister explained that the federal Government shared all approved expenditures on a 50-50 basis with the provinces. These expenses included the payment of living allowances where persons who were approved for the training did not have Unemployment Insurance benefits. Federal Government expenditures for this purpose amounted to approximately \$166,000.

Training was provided for the purpose of assisting unemployed, who were unemployed mainly because of their lack of employable skill or knowledge. It was designed to prepare them for entry to gainful employment.

The actual selection of trainees to follow any course was made by representatives of the province and the National Employment Service working together in mutual agreement on each application for a training course, the Minister said.

Persons were not recommended for training when they had reasonable prospects of immediate or early employment without such training, or who could be indentured as an apprentice in a trade designated under a provincial apprenticeship act.

(C.W.B. July 8, 1949)

ARCTIC SUPPLIES: Laden with approximately 700 tons of supplies for Government Arctic stations in the Hudson Bay and Strait, the Department of Transport Icebreaker, the C.G.S. "N.B. McLean", on July 4 sailed from Quebec City to undertake annual duties of opening navigation in these northern waters. The powerful icebreaker has a heavy itinerary which will keep her fully occupied until late October of this year or when the last Europe-bound vessel passes through the Strait.

The 700 tons of cargo carried by the "N.B. McLean" this year will include a four-room prefabricated house which is being taken to Resolute Island and will be erected there to replace the one which was burnt down February of this year. This is one reason for the early departure this year of the "McLean" and the engineers aboard expect to have a new radio station completely built to be ready for guiding the first Churchill-bound vessel from Europe. The "McLean" will unload the new house and radio equipment and proceed to Cape Hope's Advance, returning to Resolute Island in one week's time for calibrating and checking direction finding frequencies of the newly erected station.

Also included in the supplies carried by the Department of Transport icebreaker will be coal and other freight for various Missions in the north, and also large stocks of radio replacement equipment, mail, provisions, medical supplies, and miscellaneous articles, including personal belongings of radio and meteorological officials stationed at the outlying posts.

NEW PROMOTION PLAN: Reserve Force officers who saw active service during the Second World War shall be automatically qualified for one rank higher up to and including the rank of colonel without writing professional tests, it has been announced at Army Headquarters.

These officers, the announcement added, must be appointed to a Reserve Force unit within three years of ceasing to be on active service or by June 30, 1950, whichever is the later date.

After ceasing to be on active service he must have been appointed to the Reserve Force, transferred to the Supplementary Reserve or been retired from the Canadian Army for reasons other than misconduct or inefficiency.

Such automatic promotion will apply when the officer enlists in a Reserve Force unit in the same corps with which he saw active service.

PILOT TRAINING: Reductions in the number of examinations and in the time spent in ground school attendance in student pilot training courses, was announced on July 4 by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. The Minister stated that "experience gained during the first six-months of operation of the Government's scheme of assistance to civil flying

training has led to the introduction of improvements which should result in an even more enthusiastic reception of the scheme than has already been realized."

The Canadian Government's student pilot training scheme was designed to conform with the high standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization and has been in operation since the beginning of the year. During the first six-month trial period, operation of the scheme has been closely watched by officers of the Air Services Branch of the Department of Transport. As a result of recommendations for the simplification of the training scheme, made by District Controllers of Air Services and Inspectors of Air Regulations, the Department of Transport has introduced improvements which will make it easier for the student pilot to take the training course necessary to obtaining a Private Pilot's licence.

APPROVAL ACCORDED

A Department of Transport announcement states that the improved Student Pilot Training scheme has been devised with the co-operation and approval of the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association and the Air Industry and Transport Association. The announcement says:-

"The most significant change concerns the written examinations for Private Pilot licences. The number of these examinations have been reduced from five to three and, without reduction in the standard, the time required to complete these papers has been reduced to four hours and fifteen minutes.

"The hours of Ground School attendance have been set at a minimum of ten hours providing this attendance is supplemented by satisfactory lecture notes made available by the school for home study. The Private Pilot's licence which more than meets the improved standards announced by the International Civil Aviation Organization will ensure that a student has received adequate training to a high standard consistent with safety."

Under the improved program of student pilot training which is administered by the Air Services Branch of the Department of Transport, the Government financial grants are maintained whereby one hundred dollars is paid to each approved flying club or school for each qualified pilot turned out, and also one hundred dollars is payable to each student upon his or her qualifying for Private Pilot's licence from the Department. A further cash benefit in the amount of one hundred dollars is available under the Student Pilot Training scheme to any trainee who meets R.C.A.F. service qualifications and joins either the R.C.A.F. reserve or the R.C.A.F. auxiliary.

LIVING COSTS AT NEW PEAK: The Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 159.5 to 160.5 between May 2 and June 1. The increase established a new peak for the index and placed it 0.9 points, above the previous

high of 159.6 recorded for October and November 1948, and January, 1949.

The May-June advance was entirely attributable to a rise in the food index of 3.4 points to 202.9. This was accounted for by a further seasonal rise in meats combined with a number of other increases, the most important of which were fresh vegetables and oranges.

The indexes of home furnishings and services and fuel and light moved contrary to the total index, both declining 0.4 points to 167.7 and 128.7, respectively. Clothing remained unchanged at 183.3 as did miscellaneous at 128.4. In both of these groups scattered small increases and decreases balanced each other. The rent index remained at 122.4. June rent survey results now being tabulated will be incorporated in the cost-of-living index for July 2.

SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS: Security transactions between Canada and other countries in April resulted in a sales balance of \$4,200,000, the largest since November, 1946. Total transactions in the month amounted to \$38,600,000, the highest monthly total in the current year, but only slightly higher than the monthly average of \$34,800,000 in 1948.

Transactions during the first four months of the year resulted in net sales in each month but February. The cumulative sales balance at the end of April was \$4,100,000, contrasting with purchase balances of \$6,400,000 and \$5,000,000 in the same periods of 1948 and 1947.

The sales balance in April was principally due to trade with the United States, in which there was an excess of sales over purchases of \$3,900,000. The most prominent transactions were sales of United States stocks and Canadian municipal bonds and repurchases of Canadian stocks.

Sales to the United Kingdom in April increased \$400,000, while purchases remained unchanged from the preceding month, resulting in a sales balance of \$100,000. The total value of trade with other countries remained unchanged from March, while sales exceeded purchases by \$200,000.

Sales to all countries in April were valued at \$21,400,000 as compared with \$14,600,000 in March and \$19,000,000 in April last year, while the purchases from all countries totalled \$17,200,000 compared with \$13,800,000 in March and \$20,400,000 in April last year.

In the four months ending April, sales to all countries aggregated \$65,700,000 compared with \$64,100,000 in the similar period of 1948, and the purchases, \$61,600,000 as compared with \$70,500,000.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS: Canadian production of refined petroleum products continued to move up in March, the month's output rising to 5,719,000 barrels compared with 5,251,500 in

the corresponding month last year, an increase of nine per cent. First-quarter output aggregated 17,847,000 barrels as against 16,109,500 a year earlier, a gain of 10.7 per cent.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UP: Residential building in Canada rose sharply during the first four months this year with completions and starts both showing substantial gains over the same period last year. There were 25,100 dwelling units completed in the period, an increase of 6,800 or 37 per cent over the same period of 1948, according to estimates by the Bureau of Statistics. This gain is due to the high carry-over of houses under construction at the end of 1948. Starts were also made on 16,900 dwelling units in the first four months of this year, an increase of 12.7 per cent over the same period of 1948.

The number of units under construction at the end of April was 48,100 compared with 56,500 at January 1. Ontario led the provinces with a total of 18,600 units under construction at the end of April, followed by Quebec with 12,000, British Columbia 6,900, Alberta 4,000, Nova Scotia 2,100, Manitoba 1,900, Saskatchewan 1,600, New Brunswick 800, and Prince Edward Island 100. Among the larger metropolitan areas, there were close to 8,000 units under construction in Montreal, 4,800 in Toronto, 4,000 in Vancouver, 1,600 in Winnipeg, 1,100 in Hamilton, 850 in Victoria and 820 in London.

In April, 7,300 units were completed compared with 6,700 in the corresponding month last year, while starts were made on 8,466 units compared with 8,274 a year ago. The average length of time required to build the dwelling units completed in April was 7.9 months, unchanged from the March figure.

The number of dwelling units completed in the first four months of 1949 by regions, figures for the same period of 1948 being in brackets: Maritimes, 1,573 (773); Quebec, 6,778 (4,865); Ontario, 8,725 (6,806); Prairie Provinces, 4,748 (2,817); British Columbia, 3,253 (3,037).

BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING: Experiments aimed at increasing the commercial catch of the bluefin tuna which in great numbers, each year, visit the south coast of Nova Scotia, will be resumed in 1949 by federal Fisheries Research Board scientists of the Atlantic Biological Station, St. Andrews, N.B.

The bluefin tuna has in recent years increased in popularity both as a sport fish for angling and as a commercial food fish but the trap-nets, harpoons and baited surface trawls which are used are unable to meet the demands of the canning industry.

The commercial fishing is centered in the St. Margarets Bay and Halifax Harbour area where the "jumper tuna" school in great numbers from June through to November.

L.R. Day, an associate biologist at the St. Andrews Station, conducted experiments last summer at St. Margarets Bay with tuna lures similar to those used on the West Coast for albacore tuna. Although the catching efficiency of those lures was successfully demonstrated, the double barbless hooks proved too light for the 75 to 150-pound tuna which frequent St. Margarets Bay.

Mr. Day used five types of tuna lure which were trolled at distances of from five to ten fathoms from the rear cockpit of a 30-foot harpoon boat. Only the largest lure which had a red, white and yellow feather and yellow plastic body with red eyes attracted and caught tuna. The lures passed directly through eight schools of "jumper tuna". Five strikes were recorded and two fish, averaging 100 pounds in weight, were brought in. The remaining three either shook off or straightened the barbless hooks.

Data collected by Mr. Day indicated that in connection with other methods of fishing tuna, the tuna lures appeared the most efficient.

CANADA-SWEDEN AGREEMENT: The Department of External Affairs announced on July 4 that Canada and Sweden have concluded an agreement modifying their visa requirements for temporary visitors.

Beginning July 1, Canadian citizens, who are bona fide non-immigrants (visitors, not seeking employment nor permanent residence) and who are in possession of valid Canadian passports may, without previously obtaining a Swedish visa, visit Sweden for periods each not exceeding three consecutive months.

Swedish subjects, who are bona fide non-immigrants coming to Canada and who are in possession of valid Swedish passports, will receive, from the Canadian Legation in Stockholm, visas, free of charge, valid for an unlimited number of entries to Canada during a period of twelve months from the date of issue of such visas.

This agreement in no way exempts Canadian citizens or Swedish subjects from the necessity of complying with the Immigration and residence regulations of Sweden and Canada.

RCAF APPOINTMENT: Appointment of Wing Commander R.M. Cox, DFC, AFC, of Fort Garry, Man., as senior RCAF Air Cadet Liaison officer at Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa, replacing Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson, DSO, DFC, is announced by Air Force Headquarters. W/C Cox, wartime commander of an RAF Mosquito bomber squadron, whose operations constituted one of the most highly guarded of Allied bombing techniques, was on the directing staff of the RAF Staff College in Britain before taking his new position.

DR. GREEN'S APPOINTMENT: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, has announced the appointment of Dr. John Joseph Green, M.B.E.; of Ottawa, as Deputy Director General of the Defence Research Board, and Scientific Adviser to the Chief of Air Staff.

Dr. Green was educated at the University of London, taking his B.Sc. with first class honours and his A.R.C. Sc. from the Imperial College of Science and Technology in 1928. He was awarded the Imperial College Governors' prize in Physics, and a Sir Otto Beit Scientific Research Fellowship, completing his Ph. D. in aeronautics in 1930.

From 1930 to 1943 Dr. Green was on the staff of the National Research Council, Division of Mechanical Engineering, latterly as head of the Aerodynamics Section. In 1943 he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and was appointed Chief Research Engineer, Test and Development Establishment, Rockcliffe. In 1943, Dr. Green received the M.B.E. for valuable public service in the field of scientific research, and in 1945 the King's commendation for valuable service in the air.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

From 1945-49 Dr. Green was the Chief Research Aeronautical Engineer of the Air Transport Board, Ottawa. His professional career has been almost wholly devoted to research, development and testing (both laboratory and flight) in the field of aviation to which he has contributed a large number of reports and papers, many of which have been published in research and engineering journals.

Dr. Green is a member of the Engineering Institute of Canada, an Associate Fellow of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences and was honoured last year by election to Fellowship of the Royal Aeronautical Society. In addition to his flying activities in the R.C.A.F., he has taken an active part in civil flying, serving a term as President of the Ottawa Flying Club and Treasurer of the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association.

MR. CRAIG'S APPOINTMENT: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, has announced the appointment of Carleton Craig as Chief Superintendent of the Canadian Armament Research and Development Establishment, Valcartier, Que. Mr. Craig is on loan for two years from McGill University, where he is Vice Principal of Dawson College and Associate Professor of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics.

He succeeds Dr. W.B. Littler, FRCS, of London, England, who has been on loan to the Defence Research Board from the British Ministry of Supply. Dr. Littler returned to the United Kingdom last month after serving in DRB for the past two years.

MAY DOMESTIC EXPORTS \$272,900,000

WHEAT SHIPMENTS UP: Canada's domestic exports in May, showing the usual seasonal trend, increased in value to \$272,900,000 from \$237,800,000 in April, but were 3.4 per cent below the value of \$282,300,000 for May last year, according to trade returns released by the Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the five months ended May, was slightly above that for the corresponding period of 1948, amounting to \$1,169,600,000 as against \$1,166,600,000.

Shipments to the United States during May increased in value over both April and May last year, while those to the United Kingdom showed a further gain over the preceding month but a drop from last year. Sharp gains over a year ago were recorded in exports to the Union of South Africa, India and Pakistan, and decreases in sales totals to European and Latin American countries.

Wheat exports during May, as in April, were sharply above a year ago, shipments of farm implements and machinery nearly doubled in value, and smaller but distinctive gains were registered for grains other than wheat, cattle, fish and fishery products, newsprint, zinc and products, and ships and vessels. Major commodity decreases were in flour, bacon and hams, planks and boards, wood pulp, automobiles and parts, aluminum, asbestos, and coal.

EXPORTS TO U.S.

Merchandise exports to the United States in May were valued at \$121,199,000 as compared with \$110,654,000 in April and \$114,711,000 in May last year. For the first five months this year the value of sales across the border was \$577,004,000 as against \$536,264,000 in the January-May period of 1948, a gain of nearly eight per cent.

May shipments to the United Kingdom amounted in value to \$72,403,000, up from \$63,049,000 in April but down from last year's May figure of \$85,058,000, which was the highest monthly value in 1948. Cumulative value for the five months stood at \$274,887,000 compared with \$305,201,000 last year, a decrease of nearly 10 per cent.

Exports to India and Pakistan, up sharply in preceding months, rose again from a combined value of \$2,260,000 in May a year ago to \$7,983,000, and for the five months from \$8,581,000 to \$45,036,000. Down in April, exports to the Union of South Africa increased in May to \$12,889,000 compared with \$7,815,000 last year, raising the five-month total to \$30,318,000 as against \$27,473,000. In contrast with the gains to these Commonwealth countries, sales to Australia in the month dropped to \$1,436,000 compared with \$3,216,000 last year, resulting in a cumulative total slightly below that of 1948 at \$12,018,000 compared with

\$12,985,000, while exports to New Zealand declined to \$1,513,000 from \$1,838,000, and for the five months were down to \$4,724,000 against \$7,027,000.

Merchandise exports to European countries -- moderately higher in April over the corresponding 1948 month, after earlier decreases this year -- fell off to \$24,982,000 compared with \$30,694,000 and for the five months were down to \$87,033,000 compared with \$120,938,000. Larger decreases during May were in trade with Czechoslovakia, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, while substantial gains were recorded for shipments to Belgium and Luxembourg, and Germany. Exports to Latin American countries as a whole were also lower in May at \$11,852,000 compared with \$13,226,000, but the five-month total was slightly higher at \$48,448,000 as against \$48,274,000. Shipments to Argentina were again sharply lower and there were decreases in those to Brazil and Venezuela and increases to Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Panama.

Three of the commodity groups were higher in the month and six lower. Agricultural and vegetable products rose to \$76,300,000 compared with \$57,200,000 and animals and animal products declined to \$22,600,000 compared with \$37,700,000, while other groups showed relatively small changes.

COMMODITY FEATURE

The outstanding commodity feature of the month's exports was a rise in value of wheat to \$47,065,000 as against \$19,233,000 in May last year, bringing total wheat exports in the five months to \$155,706,000 compared with \$79,937,000. Other grains increased to \$5,154,000 compared with \$4,107,000, but wheat flour declined to \$9,181,000 compared with \$15,628,000 and for the five months was down to \$43,174,000 against \$54,186,000. Cattle exports again increased to \$3,492,000 from \$2,769,000 and fish and fishery products to \$6,902,000 from \$5,833,000, while bacon and hams dropped to \$1,506,000 from \$13,795,000 and shell and processed eggs to \$924,000 from \$4,271,000.

In the wood and paper group, newsprint increased to \$38,624,000 from \$33,830,000 last year to maintain first-place leadership over wheat at \$165,044,000 for the five months against \$147,643,000. Planks and boards, however, again declined in the month to \$12,473,000 from \$16,304,000, other unmanufactured wood to \$3,873,000 from \$6,379,000, and wood pulp to \$14,812,000 from \$19,773,000. In the iron and products group, farm machinery and implements continued to advance with a sharp rise to \$12,014,000 from \$6,296,000 while most other larger items, except railway cars and parts, showed moderate declines.

PRIME MINISTER NEHRU TO VISIT CANADA: Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru of India has accepted the invitation of the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. St. Laurent, to visit Canada in October it has been officially announced. Following is text of the invitation extended by Mr. St. Laurent:

"On behalf of the Government and people of Canada I extend to you a most cordial invitation to visit this country when you are in North America later this year. I very much hope that you may find it possible to honour us by your acceptance.

"The Canadian people would appreciate the opportunity of welcoming you as Prime Minister of a sister nation of the Commonwealth and as the distinguished leader of the people of India. For myself I look forward to renewing the happy personal relations which I so much enjoyed when we met in London last year. If you are able to accept we would of course wish to have you and your party as guests of the Government."

Following is text of the acceptance by the Prime Minister of India:

"I hasten to thank you for the very kind invitation that you have extended to me on behalf of the Government and people of Canada to visit the Dominion. It will give me great pleasure to visit Canada and I look forward to fitting this in with my trip to your great and friendly neighbour the United States of America next October. The Government and people of India entertain the friendliest feelings towards Canada and her people and it will be both an honour and a pleasure for me to bring to you all in person their greetings. The prospect of seeing you again enhances the pleasure with which I look forward to the visit.

"Owing to exigencies of American trip and of my official obligations in India, it may not be possible for me to spend many days in Canada. This I am sure you will understand. Details can be settled later. Kind regards."

I.L.O. AT GENEVA: The International Labour Organization's Governing Body at Geneva on June 30, approved establishment of a fact-finding and conciliation commission on freedom of association, for the purpose of international supervision of freedom of association, as suggested in proposals submitted by I.L.O. Director-General David A. Morse.

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to continue consultations already begun with the Secretary-General of the United Nations with regard to the manner in which such a commission can most appropriately be established.

The Director-General was further requested, in the light of these consultations, to submit detailed proposals concerning the terms of reference, procedure and composition of the commission to the Governing Body at an early session.

Also at Geneva, the credentials committee of the I.L.O. General Conference made public its conclusions on objections to the credentials of workers' delegates and advisers from Argentina, India, Ireland, Panama and Venezuela.

The committee stated it was not convinced that effective trade union freedom is entirely guaranteed in all the countries which were under consideration. The statement added that information available to the committee did not enable it, in the short time at its disposal, to come to a definite decision. None of the protests lodged were sustained by the committee.

THREE NEW DIVISIONS: Creation of three new Divisions within the Bureau of Mines to meet the greatly increased industrial demands being made upon its services, was announced on July 6 by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

These new Divisions resulted from the subdivision of the former Mineral Dressing and Metallurgy Division which comprised the mineral dressing, metallurgical and radioactivity sections. By this reorganization each of the three will now have Division status.

Mr. R.J. Traill, Chief of the former Division of Mineral Dressing and Metallurgy, becomes Chief of the Division of Mineral Dressing and Process Metallurgy. His unit operates the mineral dressing laboratories which processes all ores and minerals, the ceramic laboratories and the extractive metallurgy section.

Dr. John Convey, previously chief metallurgist, becomes Chief of the Division of Physical Metallurgy. The metallurgical laboratories which, since 1943, have served the Canadian metal industry and the Armed Services, carry on an extensive range of research projects, providing facilities for the investigation of foundry practice, fabrication techniques, metal testing and research on metal processes.

The Division of Radioactivity will be headed by Mr. Arvid Thunaes, specialist in metallurgy. This unit will maintain the chemical and physical laboratories which aid the radioactive mineral and prospecting industry. The notably increased interest in this work and in more efficient methods of detecting radioactive ore deposits has continued to multiply the demands upon such services.

FRUIT CROP INCREASE: Moderate increases in most fruit crops are indicated in the first estimates of production for this year released by the Bureau of Statistics.

Apple production is currently estimated at 16,770,000 bushels, or 25 per cent above the 1948 level. The pear crop will amount to 831,000 bushels, slightly larger than the 1948 crop of 789,000 bushels. A 15 per cent increase since last season is looked for in the peach crop.