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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

CANADA AT THE U.N.: Meeting for the first time since May 26, the Working Committee of the Commission for Conventional Armaments began, on June 21, discussion on the French proposal for a census and verification of armaments and armed forces of member states of the United Nations.

This proposal, which was introduced in the Working Committee on May 26, was supported on June 21 by Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, China and Cuba; and opposed by Egypt, the Ukraine and the USSR, reports the U.N. Press Bureau. The discussion will continue at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, June 28.

The meeting was opened by a statement by the current Chairman of the Committee, Brigadier General Mohamed A. Bey Khalifa who, speaking as the representative of Egypt, said he hoped the Committee could reach agreement and thus restore the faith of the peoples of the world in the United Nations as a means to peace. General Khalifa regretted that there still was not "teamwork for peace" in the United Nations and declared that unless this could be achieved, another war would come.

Turning to the French proposal, General Khalifa said that information on "atomic ground weapons and guided missiles" should be included in the proposed census. It was "rather strange," he pointed out, that the French proposal excluded military research, and stressing

that such research could also produce deadly weapons, General Khalifa asked: "Why not also control research?" The Egyptian Government, he said, would be unable to support the French plan.

George Ignatieff of Canada said the French proposals "faithfully reflect the wishes of the General Assembly." Adoption of these proposals, he declared, would be a "useful first step" toward creating "a state of confidence" called for by the General Assembly. The French proposals, besides, fulfilled the essential requirement of effective provisions for inspection and control, he said.

Mr. Ignatieff emphasized that it would serve no useful purpose to confuse the work on conventional armaments with the work expressly assigned by the General Assembly to the Atomic Energy Commission.

Sir Terence Shone of the United Kingdom said he had been authorized by his Government to support the French plan as an "adequate scheme for the exchange of information."

He reserved the right to introduce amendments. Sir Terence declared he shared Mr. Ignatieff's views on the separate functions of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments.

Frank G. Nash of the United States "warmly and fully" supported the French plan, reserving the right to submit minor drafting suggestions.

NATIONAL MUSEUM FIELD WORK: An expanded program of field work will be undertaken this year by the National Museum of Canada according to an announcement by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson. Eighteen parties will conduct archaeological, botanical, ethnological, and zoological research.

Five archaeological parties will work in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, the Arctic and Yukon Territory. Dr. Jean Michea, with Henry Collins Jr., Smithsonian Institution, will investigate the ancient habitations of Eskimos who, hundreds of years ago, moved in the area between Boothia and Greenland. The work will be carried on at Resolute Bay and Cornwallis Island, N.W.T. Transport will be supplied by the R.C.A.F. and the U.S.A.A.F.

Dr. Douglas Leechman, archaeologist, will work in British Columbia north of Prince George on a continuing study of migration routes from Asia to North America.

YUKON STUDIES

Three parties will be assigned to zoological work in Yukon Territory, Prince Patrick Island, N.W.T., and Newfoundland. A study of birds and mammals in the Kluane Lake region (Yukon), an area from which little zoological information has been collected in the past, will be made by W.E. Godfrey. Austin W. Cameron will investigate the mammals of Newfoundland while Stuart A. MacDonald will carry on zoological field work on Prince Patrick Island, with the Smithsonian Institution.

Three biological parties, under Museum supervision, have been assigned to the following areas; Lake Winnipeg-Winnipegosis; Quebec; the east coast of Hudson Bay; and Islands of Foxe Channel, N.W.T.

Ethnological work will be carried on by the Museum in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. A study of rituals, ceremonies, and the Handsome-Lake religion of the Iroquois in the Grand River area, will be made by Marcel Rioux. Research and collection of folk songs and music are also being done on behalf of the Museum. Miss Margaret Sargent will work on transcription of folk music and Iroquois songs.

BORDER TRAFFIC: Highway traffic between Canada and the United States was 14 per cent heavier in April than in the same month of 1948, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The advance was principally due to Canadian traffic returning from the United States which increased by 40 per cent. United States traffic entering Canada advanced only five per cent.

The comparison between traffic in the two years is influenced by the fact that Easter occurred in April this year but in March last. For that reason a more valid comparison can be made by considering the aggregate volume of traffic for the two months of March and April. Data for the two months show an increase of 10

per cent in total traffic across the border, United States vehicles increasing by two per cent and Canadian vehicles by 32 per cent.

The aggregate number of border crossings in April was 613,800, consisting of 415,400 foreign entries and 198,400 Canadian vehicles returning. Of the foreign inflow, 83,500 vehicles entered on traveller's vehicle permits, 315,600 were non-permit or local entries, and 16,300 were commercial vehicles. The Canadian traffic comprised 23,100 units remaining abroad for more than 24 hours, 160,400 staying for shorter periods and 14,900 commercial vehicles.

Cumulative totals for the four months place highway border crossings at 1,891,000 as compared with 1,722,300 in the similar period a year ago, showing an advance of 10 per cent. As in April, a large part of the rise was due to increased volume of returning Canadian traffic, up from 469,800 a year ago to 625,800. In the same period, United States entries rose from 1,252,500 a year earlier to 1,315,200.

COAL OUTPUT DOWN: Production of coal in Canada in May was about three per cent lower than in the corresponding month last year, a decrease in Alberta counterbalancing gains in all other producing provinces. Despite the fall in the month, output for the five months ending May rose eight per cent over the similar period of 1948. Imports were down .04 per cent in the month and one per cent in the cumulative period.

Preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics place the all-Canada output at 1,326,700 tons in May as compared with 1,352,393 a year earlier. During the five-month period, production rose to 7,765,300 tons as against 7,177,830 in the same period last year. Imports during the month totalled 3,347,099 tons compared with 3,348,579 in May last year, bringing total imports for the year-to-date to 7,724,959 tons against 7,794,524 in 1948.

Mines in Nova Scotia produced 557,000 tons in the month as compared with 538,001 a year ago, and in Alberta, 506,000 tons compared with 587,771. Total for British Columbia and the Yukon was 158,500 tons compared with 143,951, Saskatchewan (62,200) (50,695), and New Brunswick 43,000 (41,975).

SAULT STE. MARIE ARMOURY: The first post-war armoury to be built in Canada will go to the city of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., for the use of its 49th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, has announced. Construction is expected to start early this Fall, and will take about one year to complete at a cost of more than \$750,000.00. (This figure erroneously appeared as \$750,000,000 in last week's Bulletin)

NEW AIR DEVICES: Two devices to help aircraft land in bad weather conditions have been approved as standards for world-wide use by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, which at a meeting in Montreal has approved international standards on aeronautical telecommunications.

The two devices are the Instrument Landing System (ILS), which permits a pilot to land in low visibility by following the indications of two pointers on his instrument board, and Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) which allows a ground radio operator to talk the aircraft down while watching a radar screen which shows its exact position. ILS is specified for all regular international airports where an instrument landing system is required, with GCA as supplementary equipment wherever air traffic control will be materially assisted or wherever it is likely to be needed by aircraft not equipped with ILS. The only equipment required in the aircraft itself for GCA use are a radio receiver and transmitter.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Other provisions of the aeronautical telecommunications standards include the selection of the very-high-frequency omni-range as a short-distance radio aid to navigation for use where traffic conditions justify an aid of that character. The omni-range gives a continuous direct reading of the aircraft's bearing from a fixed ground station. Standardized distance measuring indicator is to be added when available. Both the aircraft's distance and bearing from the ground station will then be continuously available to the pilot, thereby providing him with precise tracks along which he may fly, and keeping him advised at all times of what track he is on and how far he is from the fixed ground station.

The standards do not include any long-range navigational aids, as no completely satisfactory aid is yet sufficiently mature for international adoption as a standard, but the ICAO Council recommends that research and development continue on this problem, and that in the meantime the present types of long-distance aids be continued in operation.

The aeronautical telecommunications standards are the 10th set which ICAO has adopted. Others include such subjects as Rules of the Air, Personnel Licensing, Dimensional Standardization, Maps and Charts, etc. Standards are designed to foster air safety in two ways: by producing world wide uniformity of air navigation services and procedures, so that wherever an aircraft may fly it will find familiar facilities; methods of operation and regulations; and by ensuring that each nation's aviation practices are maintained at a high standard of quality.

The aeronautical telecommunications standards will be effective on March 1, 1950, unless

they are previously disapproved by a majority of the member nations of ICAO. Authority for the establishment of the standards comes from the Convention on International Civil Aviation, concluded at Chicago in 1944. ICAO Council adoption of a set of standards gives it status as an Annex to this Convention. Any state which finds itself unable to comply with any of the standards in an approved annex must notify ICAO, so that other member nations may be warned of the divergency.

WHOLESALE SALES UP: Dollar volume of wholesale sales advanced slightly less than two per cent in April over the same month last year, following a gain of seven per cent in March, an increase of one per cent in February, and a slight decline in January. Cumulative figures for the first four months of this year stand 2.7 per cent above the similar period of 1948.

According to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics, the general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 290.3 in April, 283.4 in March, and 285.4 in April last year.

Trends in the different regions of the country showed considerable variation in April. Wholesalers in the Prairie Provinces recorded the greatest increase at 14 per cent, while sales of wholesalers in Ontario were up two per cent. A decline of four per cent was reported for Quebec, while in British Columbia, sales were down six per cent, and in the Maritime Provinces by eight per cent.

Footwear wholesalers recorded a sales advance of 21 per cent in April over the same month last year, while fruit and vegetable wholesalers registered an increase of 18 per cent. Clothing wholesalers reported an increase in sales of 10 per cent in the month after having been below 1948 for the first three months of the year. Drug wholesalers' sales were up nine per cent, while automotive equipment and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers both reported gains of eight per cent.

Dollar sales of hardware wholesalers were two per cent below last year, the only part of the country to register increased sales in this trade being the Prairie Provinces with a gain of six per cent. The same situation prevailed in the wholesale dry goods and groceries trades, where all regions recorded decreases except the Prairie Provinces.

Dollar sales of dry goods wholesalers for all Canada were down three per cent from last April, while the western provinces showed an increase of seven per cent. In the grocery trade, sales for Canada registered a drop of seven per cent, while sales in the Prairie Provinces were up five per cent.

Stocks in the hands of wholesalers in the nine trades surveyed were valued 10 per cent higher at the end of April than at the same date last year.

INVENTORY VALUES: Total inventory values in Canadian manufacturing industries appear to have fallen slightly at the end of April for the second consecutive month, according to preliminary reports received by the Bureau of Statistics.

The Bureau's preliminary index of estimated inventory values at the end of the month stood at 130.6 per cent of the average 1947 value as against a revised 132.5 per cent at the end of March. The decline is the largest in total value since the Bureau began the series in January, 1947. It may indicate, the Bureau says, that the rate of postwar inventory accumulation, which had been decreasing during 1948, may have reached its peak in February.

Among the main industry groupings, inventory values in the consumers' goods industries declined slightly in the month, the Bureau's index for these industries showing a drop of 1.5 points from the February and March point of 130.3 to 128.8. The index for the capital goods industries fell by 9.2 points and at 111.6 was 26 points below the high reached last November. In the producers' goods industries the level remained virtually unchanged from March, the index being five points below the high of 142.3 at the end of January, but in the construction goods industries the index reached a new high of 165.2, two points above the March level. However, figures for sawmills, the largest component of the latter group, are not yet available.

A breakdown of the consumers' goods group shows that inventories of non-durable consumers' goods fell by 2.5 points, the food industries -- largest component of this group -- showing a two-point drop. Greatest changes from March was a nine-point rise in the fish curing and packing industry and an eight-point drop in the fruit and vegetable preparations industry. Value of stocks in the majority of food industries was above 1948 level, the greatest differences being in the fish curing and packing industry, index for which was at 150.4 as against 65.3 in April last year.

In the producers' goods group, inventories in the iron and steel industries rose by five points and in the non-ferrous metals industries fell by four points. In the construction goods industries, bridge building and structural steel showed a six-point rise, while inventories in the cement industry dropped seasonally by 40 points and planing mills by 20 points.

FOREIGN VEHICLE ENTRIES: Foreign vehicle entries into Canada continued to increase in May, rising 13 per cent over the corresponding month last year, the gain being the same as that recorded in the first five months of the year. There were increases in the number of entries in practically all provinces both in the month and cumulative period.

RETAIL SALES UP: The value of Canada's retail trade was sharply higher in April when sales reached \$669,000,000 and exceeded April, 1948, dollar volume of \$573,000,000 by 17 per cent. The occurrence of Easter and the prevalence of favourable weather conditions in April this year were partially responsible for the high level of consumer spending. Last year seasonal Easter buying was concentrated in March. Tax reductions provided in the budget released additional purchasing power which also helped to swell retail sales.

Sales in the January-to-April period of 1949 were \$2,211,610,000, while volume in the same period of last year amounted to \$2,055,590,000, a gain of eight per cent.

The April increase was the largest recorded in several months and is in contrast to the more moderate gains in earlier months of the year. The advance in January was one per cent, February five per cent, and March, six per cent.

Easter's effect was felt more sharply by some trades than others. It was probably important in bringing about the considerable increases recorded by apparel, variety and department stores. Sizeable gains for the automotive, food and jewellery stores must be attributed mainly to other factors.

In the Prairie Provinces, where sales have been expanding at a rapid rate for some time, exceptionally high sales volumes were recorded in April. Increases in total trade amounted to 50 per cent in Saskatchewan, 38 per cent in Alberta, and 27 per cent in Manitoba compared with April a year ago, evidence of the promising outlook occasioned by oil well development and its effect on related enterprises in Western Canada. Announcement in March of a 20-per cent increase in the price of wheat, retroactive to 1945, gave added buoyancy to trade in the Prairie Provinces. Other parts of the country shared in lesser degree the prosperous April trade, increases ranging from eight per cent in the Maritime Provinces to 15 per cent in Ontario.

CADET TRADES TRAINING: From Royal Canadian Army Cadet units all across Canada an expected 1,675 youths will arrive at special camps in July to begin a 42-day trades training course. The course is the outcome of a highly successful experiment conducted last summer on a small scale. Officials were so pleased with results and the keen interest shown by the youngsters last year that it was decided to expand the program into this summer's size and scope.

The subjects to be covered include driver mechanic, signalling for all arms, operated fire control and engineering equipment, and medical assistance.

CANADA'S RECORD HIGH EMPLOYMENT

A "GOOD YEAR" REPORTED: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, on June 18, issued the following summary of the Eighth Annual Report of the Unemployment Insurance Commission for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1949.

The Unemployment Insurance Act of 1940 provided the basis for unification of two distinct functions which are interwoven in their operation and essential to each other. The National Employment Service and the unemployment insurance system work hand in hand; neither could function successfully without the other.

There are 298 Unemployment Insurance Commission-National Employment Service offices throughout Canada including three new offices which have been opened in Newfoundland.

EMPLOYMENT - Canada has had a "good year". It was featured by industrial growth and record high employment. With the total labour force at an all-time high of 5,109,000 in September, 1948, 5,042,000 workers were employed. There were of course seasonal contractions, but at no time was there any serious widespread unemployment.

1,149,707 VACANCIES

As evidence of the confidence of the Canadian public in the National Employment Service, it is a fact that employers notified the offices of 1,149,707 vacancies or opportunities for employment and all but a very small percentage of the vacancies were filled. The few which went unfilled were for special classes or registered during times when men were in short supply. In fact, a number of large organizations have informed the Unemployment Insurance Commission, and the public, that they now do their entire hiring through the Employment Service.

During periods of greatest seasonal contraction occurring in the past year, the total number of unplaced applicants registered in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission was slightly in excess of four per cent of the labour force. While in some areas of the Maritime Provinces and in British Columbia the number of persons seasonally out of work was higher than in other districts, it may be said that all sections of the country and all industries shared in the general prosperity.

There was considerable demand for skilled workers in manufacturing industries, notably in textiles, iron and steel, woodworking and furniture, pulp and paper, chemicals and printing and publishing, throughout the year.

Employment in building and construction reached a record high point. A considerable number of skilled workmen was added to the industry's labour force through immigration from the United Kingdom, and from apprentice-

ship training. Telephone and power companies expanded facilities and thus contributed to the demand for labour. Workers in all branches of the transportation industry were well employed. The Employment Service recruited labour for the various seasonal agricultural movements with a minimum of difficulty and a maximum of service to farm employers and workers alike. The demand for woods workers in most areas was considerably reduced in comparison with that of former years. With the country's working population augmented by the admission of European immigrants, recruiting of labour for the mining industry became easier, and at year-end demand and supply were practically in balance in the industry.

Some 12,000 workers were transferred within Canada to industrial, farm, woods and other employments, some over distances of 1,500 miles, including transfers totalling nearly 5,500 effected in group movements. In addition to these the Employment Service took part in nine international group transfers.

50,610 DISPLACED PERSONS

During the year a total of 50,610 displaced persons were admitted to Canada. Of this number 20,434 were selected overseas by representatives of the Department of Labour and placed in employment by the National Employment Service. This group included some 6,500 domestics and household workers and approximately 4,000 persons for agricultural employment. The remaining 30,176 displaced persons who entered Canada during the year came as close relatives of residents of Canada or were admitted on the nomination of employers. A substantial proportion of this group were employable people who were placed in employment through the National Employment Service. In addition 500 skilled workers from Malta were admitted for specified employment.

In August, 1948, an office of the National Employment Service was opened in London, England, to promote emigration to Canada from the United Kingdom in co-operation with the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources.

During the fiscal year more than 40,000 British emigrants came to Canada. Many of them, without special trade skill, were eager to find a new life in agriculture or through employment in Canada's mines and forests. Among the new arrivals, however, were also technical and professional workers and many skilled craftsmen and artisans whose training and experience assured them a welcome in Canadian industry.

Through its special placement facilities the Employment Service succeeded in finding jobs for more than 13,600 handicapped workers, about 6,000 of whom were disabled ex-Service men and about 100 ex-Service women.

(C.W.B. June 24, 1949)

RCAF RESCUE OPERATIONS: The RCAF took part in 116 different search and rescue operations during the 12 months ending March 31, 1949, and its planes flew more than 2500 hours on these operations, it was announced by Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa.

In addition to the 116 total, which represents the number of cases in which Air Force planes and marine craft took part, the RCAF Search and Rescue organization co-operated in many more operations, where facilities were provided by other agencies. Much valuable assistance was given by Navy and Army, by other government departments, and by commercial agencies. Air Force Headquarters also said that much credit for the successful Search and Rescue work should be given to the signals organizations of the Armed Services, without which the work could not be carried out.

The 12-month total of operations is broken into 42 cases where the search was for civil and military aircraft, 35 cases where assistance was given marine craft, 28 "mercy flights" and 11 others. In the five Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centres, at Halifax, Trenton, Ont.; Winnipeg; Edmonton, and Vancouver, the largest number of incidents was handled by Halifax, with a total of 55. Greatest amount of flying time was rolled up by Winnipeg, which logged 1094 hours for aircraft flying under its control. A large part of this total was logged during the search for the US Navy Beechcraft last Autumn, with the American and British naval attachés aboard. It was located after a 12-day search, and its 5 crewmembers and passengers rescued.

MR. BROTT AT THE HAGUE: Two concerts recently conducted at The Hague by the Canadian composer and conductor, Alexander Brott, and carried over the Home service of the Netherlands Radio, have won praise from music critics in The Hague. Mr. Brott first conducted the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, consisting of 93 musicians, rendering the Overture "Carnival" by Oscar Morawetz, and his own suite, "From Sea to Sea." The second concert consisted of a variety of Canadian compositions. In addition to the concerts Mr. Brott gave a lecture on Canadian Music under the auspices of the Netherlands Canada Society.

ASSISTANCE TO HOSPITALS: The federal Department of Health has announced approval of grants totalling more than \$253,000 to assist five hospital construction projects in London, Ont.; Sorel and Matane, Que.; Sackville, N.B.; and Windsor, N.S. The combined increase in bed capacity for the five hospitals will be more than 435.

Largest single grant--more than \$131,900--goes to the new Hôpital du Saint-Rédempteur, Matane, Que. When completed later this year, this hospital, operated by the Dominicans de

l'Enfant-Jésus, will have 167 beds and will be fully equipped for the care of medical, surgical and obstetrical cases. It will serve about 50,000 people in the county of Matane.

A grant of \$50,000 has been approved to assist in extending the children's wing of Victoria Hospital, London. An additional 50 beds will be added for the care of sick and injured children.

(Continued from p.1)

He also concurred with Mr. Ignatieff's views.

Semyon K. Tsarapkin of the USSR said the proposal was not in accordance with General Assembly decisions. Its obvious aim was, in his opinion, to postpone practical measures for the reduction of armaments. Without previous agreement on this main task, he said, gathering of data would mean only collection of intelligence information.

Against the background of General Assembly and Security Council decisions which had pronounced the twin problems of armaments reduction and the prohibition of atomic weapons an "indivisible problem," the French plan "put matters completely upside down", he said. Only those who aimed at "wrecking" armaments reduction could so lightly "distort the real issue." This tactic, the same as the one applied in the Atomic Energy Commission, said Mr. Tsarapkin, was "sabotage" of the urgent and main task assigned to the Commission by the General Assembly.

Vasily A. Tarassenko of the Ukraine declared the French plan was "not a serious document". The gathering of data as proposed in that plan was pointless if viewed in connection with the real task before the Committee, but obviously not pointless so far as the "concealed thoughts" of the French Delegation were concerned, whose aim, he said, was to obtain intelligence data on countries against which aggression was being planned.

The U.S. and its "Atlantic allies", said Mr. Tarassenko, were doing everything to worsen international relations and to undermine international confidence. Data collected would be obsolete within a year as the U.S. was engaged in a "crazy armaments race."

MR. IGNATIEFF'S VIEWS

Mr. Ignatieff (Canada) pointed out that the duties of the Atomic Energy Commission had been outlined by the General Assembly as far back as January 24, 1946, and were separate from those of the Commission for Conventional Armaments. One could not start "with a blank wall and no facts." It was, on the contrary, necessary and sensible first to accumulate facts and then to build on them any plans for the reduction of armaments.

Mr. Nash (U.S.) described the Soviet arguments as "red herrings and irrelevancies". One "especially old and malodorous" one, he said, was that one and the same agency was to con-

sider atomic problems and armaments reduction, specifically separated by the General Assembly. There was therefore no inconsistency in a separate body for conventional armaments, he declared. It was a "pernicious over-simplification" to claim as the Soviet representative had done, that the Committee should get down to the task of reducing armaments right away. First, said Mr. Nash, it had to be "ascertained what there is to disarm."

The U.S. has offered to give up the atomic bomb, he said, and this offer pre-supposed disclosure of the number of bombs it possessed.

Mr. Tsarapkin (USSR) declared that without previous agreement on the main issue, gathering of data would be nothing else but "naked espionage."

ICAO THIRD ASSEMBLY: With economy as its keynote, the ICAO Third Assembly completed its sessions in Montreal on June 20 by voting a budget of 2,810,607 Canadian dollars for the operation of the International Civil Aviation Organization during 1950. This marks a reduction of \$251,000 from the original estimates of the ICAO Council and will allow ICAO to continue its working program at the present level but does not allow for any expansion. Of the total budget, \$200,000 will come from ICAO's working capital fund, and the remainder is assessed to the Organization's 54 member nations with regard to their interest in international civil aviation and to their ability to pay. The 1949 budget is \$2,649,685.

Other budgetary resolutions approved by the Third Assembly June 20 include one designed to ease the difficulty encountered by certain nations in obtaining Canadian dollars by allowing the ICAO Secretary General to accept a portion of the contributions of Contracting States in currencies other than dollars, and another which suspends the voting power of six Member States for failure to discharge their financial obligations to the Organization for a period exceeding two years. The Assembly also decided that the Organization, which is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, should join the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

The current Assembly was a limited one, devoted almost entirely to financial and administrative matters, but a full-scale meeting to consider important technical civil aviation matters will be held next year. The Assembly foresaw the possibility of this meeting taking place outside of Montreal and has instructed the ICAO Council to bear in mind the invitation of the Argentine Government that the Fourth Assembly be held in Buenos Aires.

President of the Third Assembly was Sardar H.S. Malik (India); Vice-Presidents were Brigadier General H. Da Cunha Machado (Brazil), Ali Fuad Bey (Iraq) and Colonel Humberto Delgado (Portugal). Representatives of 35 nations and two international organizations were present.

SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES ABROAD: Canada will be represented at two important scientific congresses being held in Europe in July, according to an announcement made on June 22 by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

W.B. Timm, Director of the Mines, Forests and Scientific Services Branch, will head the Canadian delegation to the Fourth Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress held in Great Britain July 9 to 23. Mr. Timm will present a paper outlining the changes in Canada's mineral resources during the past ten years.

Other members of the Department attending are Dr. R.B. MacKay, Geological Survey, and C.S. Parsons, Chief, Bureau of Mines. The program includes visits to certain centres in England, Scotland and Wales, where various phases of mining and metallurgical developments will be seen at first hand. Mr. Parsons will also visit iron mines and metallurgical works in Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.

D.A. Macdonald, Dominion Forester, and Col. J.H. Jenkins, Assistant Superintendent of the Ottawa Forest Products Laboratory, will represent the Department at the Third World Forestry Congress in Helsinki, Finland, July 10 to 20. Forest research and developments within the industry will form the basis of discussions. Mr. Macdonald and Col. Jenkins will also visit Great Britain and Scandinavia to discuss research in forestry and wood products with authorities in these countries.

During the Congress Col. Jenkins will present a paper on "Wood Waste in the Forest and Industry". The first World Forestry Congress was held in Rome in 1926, the second in Budapest in 1936. The third meeting planned for Finland in 1940 was postponed on account of the war.

POTATO EXPORT PERMITS: Effective on June 20, export permits will be granted for the shipment of table stock potatoes to the United States, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, has announced.

In November 1948 the Government announced that an agreement had been reached with the United States Government to prevent any possible flooding of the American table stock market and consequent damage to their price support program. At the same time, by channeling seed potato exports through recognized seed buyers, Canada retained her important seed outlet in the United States.

The supply position has now changed materially and with the concurrence of the United States Government, exports of Canadian table stock to the United States will again be permitted.

Throughout the year permits have been granted for exports of potatoes to other markets.

SOME DROUGHT AREAS ON PRAIRIES

CROP REPORT: Cooler weather and rains have maintained and even improved crop prospects in some parts of the West, but there remain large areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta where serious deterioration is continuing. The outlook in Manitoba and most of eastern Saskatchewan is generally good to excellent, while crops in southern sections of Alberta have responded to recent rains. In south-western Saskatchewan particularly, and to a somewhat lesser extent in central and west-central areas of that Province, rains are urgently needed. Similar conditions prevail over most of central Alberta from the Calgary-Edmonton line eastward to the Saskatchewan border. Drought is causing rapid deterioration in this large area and frost has caused local damage. Grasshopper infestations appear to be well under control in all three provinces, although the possibility of severe damage still exists, particularly in the most seriously affected districts of central Saskatchewan.

Rains and cool weather during the past week in Manitoba have further improved the crop outlook in that Province. Prospects are now considered very promising and stands of grain are generally heavy and pastures much improved, especially in areas where moisture reserves were particularly low. Spraying for both weeds and grasshoppers is in full swing in the more seriously affected areas. No serious damage from grasshoppers is indicated as yet.

Although general crop prospects have improved in Saskatchewan during the past month, poor conditions still exist in the greater part of south-central and south-western districts. During the past week the weather has been generally cool, with scattered showers falling in many areas. Moisture conditions are reasonably satisfactory in the eastern part of the Province but further rains are urgently required in most of the south-western districts.

From 10 to 50 per cent of the wheat throughout the Province is in the shot blade stage. There is considerable grasshopper activity in the central part of the Province with indications of it spreading into west-central and south-central areas. Losses have been held at a minimum but there still remains the potential danger of heavy damage in the most seriously infested districts.

Crop prospects are extremely variable in Alberta. Growth is still only poor to fair in a large area to the north and east of Calgary. Parts of southern Alberta received rain during the past week ranging from one-half to one inch. Although cool weather has helped to maintain conditions in some areas, crops are deteriorating rapidly in much of central Alberta. Pastures here are poor and hay crops short. General rains are needed immediately if crops are to make a comeback.

THREE NEW WAR VESSELS: The first contract in the naval anti-submarine escort shipbuilding program was announced on June 22 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, who stated that Canadian Vickers Limited, of Montreal, would commence work immediately on the preparation of detailed working drawings of the hull structure for the first three ships from the basic design provided by the Royal Canadian Navy.

Every effort will be made to advance the work without delay and it is hoped that the first keels will be laid down at the end of the year or early in 1950.

"As soon as the working drawings are complete, contracts will be awarded to three different Canadian yards, thus maintaining the employment of skilled engineers and workmen in many different industries," Mr. Claxton stated.

"These will be classed as major war vessels and, as such, are the first to be designed completely in Canada," the Minister continued. "Although much assistance has been received from the Royal Navy and United States Navy, the ships will, in fact, be entirely of Canadian design throughout and their manufacture will be carried out in Canada with Canadian personnel and resources."

It is also the first instance, Mr. Claxton added, in which the R.C.N. and the Canadian shipbuilding industry have worked as a team to produce a good, practicable warship of Canadian design.

While specific details of the ships cannot be disclosed for reasons of security, they are designed primarily for the detection and destruction of modern fast submarines. They will be the first to be built anywhere to meet the new requirements.

In function they replace the frigates and corvettes of the Second World War. Like the latter vessels, their design has been worked out so that in the event of an emergency they can be produced rapidly and in quantity.

There the comparison ends. In speed, manoeuvrability, weapons and habitability the new ships of the R.C.N. will fulfill all the requirements of their class for modern sea warfare.

The escort vessels will have steel hulls and aluminum superstructures and bridges. Steam turbines driving twin screws will provide a speed considerably in excess of that of the frigate.

Accommodation will be provided for a ship's company of more than 250.