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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

MR. LAPOINTE ON RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION: On April 20 the ad hoc Political Committee of the United Nations continued its discussion of the item, "having regard to the provision of the Charter and of the peace treaties, the question of observance in Bulgaria and Hungary of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including question of religious and civil liberties, with special reference to recent trials of church leaders".

Two proposals were before the Committee on this question: the first, submitted by Cuba, proposes the establishment of a 15-member Committee to investigate the whole matter, the UN Press Bureau reported.

The second proposal, submitted by Bolivia, would have the General Assembly express its "deep concern" at the accusations made against the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary, regarding the suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms in these countries.

Under the terms of this resolution the General Assembly would "note with satisfaction that measures have been taken by several states, signatories to the peace treaties with Bulgaria and Hungary, regarding the accusations" and would express the hope that these measures will be diligently applied in accordance with the treaties, in order to obtain a settlement which will "ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Furthermore, according to the Bolivian proposal, the General Assembly would "most urgently" draw the attention to the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary to their obligations under the peace treaties, including the obligation to co-operate in the settlement of all these questions.

Finally, the resolution would have the General Assembly decide "to retain the question on the agenda of the 4th session of the United Nations General Assembly."

Hugues Lapointe (Canada) declared that the UN Charter placed upon member states an obligation, as one of the prime purposes of the Organization, to develop friendly relations amongst nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights. That was why, he said, the Charter in various places refers to the rights and freedoms of the individual in society.

History, he continued, was full of examples of severe unrest and instability resulting from the activities of repressive governments which sought to take freedom from their citizens. If there were signs in the world again today, he said, that men were systematically being deprived of liberties which were recognized as essential in a stable and progressive society, the United Nations must concern itself with that situation and must seek whatever remedy is possible.

FOREIGN TRADE: Canada's total foreign trade in February rose five per cent in value to \$413,100,000 from \$392,500,000 in the corresponding month last year. Imports for consumption were up 13 per cent, while domestic merchandise exports were down by 1.6 per cent. Total for the two months ending February was \$875,900,000 compared with \$837,600,000 in the same period of 1948, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

As a result of the increase in the value of imports and the slight falling-off in exports, Canada's overall favourable balance of trade with all countries in February was down to \$1,200,000 from \$28,100,000 a year ago. For the two months the credit balance was \$16,400,000 compared with \$61,100,000 a year earlier.

The debit balance on the month's trade with the United States was \$40,600,000 -- almost identical with last year's February figure. In January and February this year the unfavourable balance was \$87,900,000 compared with \$83,700,000 last year.

Trade with the United Kingdom in February produced a credit balance of \$21,400,000, down from \$33,900,000 a year ago, while the two-month total was reduced to \$51,900,000 from \$77,300,000.

Imports for consumption from all countries in February were valued at \$206,000,000 as compared with \$182,200,000 a year ago. Domestic exports totalled \$205,000,000 compared with \$208,300,000, and foreign exports \$2,100,000 against \$2,000,000.

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS UP: Canada's merchandise imports in February were valued at \$206,000,000, an increase of 13 per cent over the corresponding month last year. The total was at the highest level on record for February, but at the lowest point since March last year. The trend was generally upwards among the commodity groups, only one of the nine moving to a lower level, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Imports from the United States were valued at \$148,816,000, up almost nine per cent from last year's total of \$136,847,000, while the value of goods received from the United Kingdom rose slightly more than 28 per cent, from \$17,872,000 to \$22,918,000. Imports from Latin American countries as a group were down to \$13,689,000 from \$14,130,000, due in the main to declines in the value of purchases from Cuba and Mexico.

Imports from Venezuela -- for some time Canada's third largest sources of supply -- were valued at \$6,171,000 compared with \$4,967,000. Purchases from British Malaya had a value of \$3,484,000 compared with \$214,000, Australia \$2,564,000 compared with \$164,000, Brazil \$2,183,000 (\$1,698,000), British Guiana

\$1,031,000 (\$288,000), Mexico \$1,039,000 (\$1,930,000), Colombia \$1,000,000 (\$845,000), Dominican Republic \$1,142,000 (\$458,000), Belgium and Luxembourg \$1,515,000 (\$556,000), and Arabia (\$1,066,000 (nil)).

The iron and its products group -- consistently the largest of the nine -- rose from \$61,000,000 a year ago to \$69,400,000. Rolling mill products, farm implements and machinery, mining and metallurgical machinery, automobiles and parts, showed the larger advances. Household and other non-farm machinery were lower in value.

The non-metallic minerals group fell from \$36,100,000 last year to \$33,700,000, sharp declines in coal and coal products outweighing advances in crude petroleum and most other commodities. There was a gain from \$10,070,000 to \$14,262,000 in the non-ferrous metals group, mainly resulting from marked increases in the imports of brass and copper products, tin and precious metals except gold.

The textiles group moved up sharply from \$22,253,000 a year ago to \$30,219,000, with marked increases in raw cotton and cotton products, wool products, artificial silk and products, and miscellaneous textiles. Imports of flax, hemp and jute were much lower, and raw and unmanufactured wool imports were down moderately.

The agricultural group of imports rose from \$22,678,000 to \$25,431,000. The trend was mixed among the commodities, with gains in fruits, vegetables, sugar, alcoholic beverages, vegetable oils and rubber, and declines in grains and products, cocoa and chocolate, tea, and coffee.

The animals and animal products group rose from \$7,118,000 to \$7,359,000; wood, wood products and paper from \$5,794,000 to \$6,493,000; chemicals and allied products from \$8,536,000 to \$9,623,000; and miscellaneous commodities from \$8,594,000 to \$9,534,000.

BORDER TRAFFIC: Highway traffic between Canada and the United States in February was 14 per cent greater in volume than in the same month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The advance was principally due to Canadian traffic returning from the United States which increased by 32 per cent, while United States traffic entering Canada was only eight per cent higher.

The aggregate number of border crossings was 419,900, consisting of 289,900 foreign entries and 130,000 Canadian vehicles returning. Of the foreign inflow, 35,800 vehicles entered on traveller's vehicle permits, 239,200 were non-permit or local entries and 14,900 were commercial vehicles. The Canadian traffic comprised 6,200 units remaining abroad for more than 24 hours, 109,300 staying for shorter periods and 14,500 commercial vehicles.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: The number of firms that will be represented at the 1949 Trade Fair in the Machinery, Engineering and Plant Equipment trade group has been given a sharp boost with the reservation of space by Engineering Industries Association representing 1,200 firms from the London region of England.

The firms are manufacturers of light and medium engineering products, tools and instruments. In addition to offering their products for sale at the Trade Fair, the association will investigate Canadian market requirements, price competition, saleability of their goods and report their findings to their member firms.

Machinery and plant equipment firms from nine countries have reserved space at this time with this latest English entry placing that country at the top in number of firms represented.

Reservation of space in the Jewellery section of the 1949 Canadian International Trade Fair by an Australian opal cutting and distributing company for the first time adds interest to this trade classification.

Known as a precious stone which defies imitation, the opals to be displayed at this year's Trade Fair include, the Harlequin, black opal, the Firefly and Jupiter, as well as white opals from the White Cliff opal fields of New South Wales.

The collection consists of 300 specimens in all sizes and shapes. Although the firm says the opal fields of Australia are approaching exhaustion they have accumulated a substantial stock of the precious gems for the Canadian and United States markets.

ICAO CONFERENCE ADVISOR: Lieutenant Commander (P) John N. Donaldson, R.C.N. of Toronto and Ottawa, has been appointed naval advisor to Mr. C.S. Booth, head of the Canadian delegation attending the International Civil Aviation Organization conference in London beginning April 20, it was announced at Naval Headquarters on April 19. The 30-year-old naval pilot is at present serving as Naval Assistant (Air) on the staff of the Senior Canadian Naval Officer in London.

Assisting Lieut.-Cdr. Donaldson at the conference will be Lieut. Wylie C. Spicer, R.C.N., 29, of Chatham, N.B., who is at present serving as staff officer torpedo and anti-submarine to the Senior Canadian Naval Officer London.

NAVAL CHIEF TO U.K.: Vice-Admiral Harold T.W. Grant, C.B.E., D.S.O., R.C.N., Chief of the Naval Staff, left Ottawa on April 12 for the United Kingdom. While overseas, Vice-Admiral Grant will attend, in company with high-ranking officers of the Royal Navy, an Exercise to be carried out at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and will confer with the Admiralty on Naval matters generally.

LABOUR INCOME: Canadian labour income in January is estimated at \$608,000,000, showing a decline of \$10,000,000 from the December figure, but a rise of \$63,000,000 or 11 per cent over January last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

In almost all industries, labour income for the month was lower than in December. The primary extractive industries, together with construction, which are greatly curtailed by winter weather conditions, showed the largest decreases. Indexes of industrial employment and production both declined in January.

According to the Department of Labour, there were only 9,700 working days lost in January through strikes and lockouts as compared with 18,939 in December. There was a slight gain in average weekly earnings in the nine leading non-agricultural industries, and the cost-of-living index dropped one-tenth of a point from 159.6 on January 3 to 159.5 on February 1.

These factors, however, were over-balanced by the drop in employment, bringing about a moderate downward movement in the total purchasing power of the Canadian labour force.

FARM PRICES: Continuing the general downward trend in evidence since the August peak -- interrupted only in December -- the index number of farm prices of agricultural products fell off 4.7 points between January and February to reach the lowest point since May last year. The decline from the January level was attributable to lower prices for grains other than wheat, livestock, poultry and eggs.

According to the Bureau of Statistics the index for February, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 252.5, down from the January figure of 257.2, but up from the February, 1948 standing of 240.3. The February index compares with the higher figure of 264.1 for August, and 247.5 for May last.

MAN-HOURS AND EARNINGS: Average weekly wages of hourly-rated personnel employed by leading Canadian manufacturers at February 1 amounted to \$41.70, showing an increase of \$2.24 over the average for the holiday week of January 1, and \$4.64 higher than in the corresponding week last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

The wage-earners for whom statistics are available worked an average of 42.9 hours in the week of February 1, or 2.3 hours more than in the week of January 1, and 0.1 hours more than in the same week last year. The aggregate hours worked by these hourly-rated wage-earners increased 5.4 per cent in the week as compared with January, but the number of wage-earners dropped by 0.3 per cent.

The average hourly earnings remained steady at 97.2 cents, the first time in a year that the movement has not been upward. At February 1 last year the hourly earnings had also maintained the January 1 level of 86.6 cents.

300-FOOT RADIO TOWERS: The Army will construct two 300-foot steel radio transmitter towers at Yellowknife, N.W.T. this summer, Army authorities said on April 18.

Materials for the towers, including some 70 tons of steel, have already been delivered over a temporary winter road running from Hay River to Yellowknife.

The towers will replace others erected when the station was opened as part of the Army's Northwest Territories and Yukon Radio System in 1936.

Construction of similar towers has been completed by Army Signals personnel at Edmonton, Alta., and at Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Norwan Wells in the Territories.

LT.-GEN. REVERS VISIT: On the eve of his departure from Montreal after a three-day visit to Quebec City and Ottawa, Lt.-Gen. Georges Revers, Chief of the General Staff of the French Army, received the following message from the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton:

"At the conclusion of your important visit in Canada I wish to express to you the pleasure and honour you have bestowed upon us. We have had frank conferences, both useful and important, on all questions of common interest to France and Canada in the establishment of security and of a lasting peace. Your visit will help to strengthen the bond between our two countries. Personally it was a great pleasure to me to renew our acquaintance which has now become a cordial friendship. With my best wishes for a safe return to your beautiful France and the hope that you will have an opportunity to return soon to Canada."

General Revers left Montreal by air Saturday, April 16.

AIR-ATTACHE IN BRUSSELS: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, has announced the appointment of Wing Commander R.F. Douglas, of Hamilton, Ont., as Air-Attaché in Brussels, Belgium, replacing Wing Commander H.M. Kennedy, AFC, of Winnipeg, and Ottawa. W/C Douglas reported to Air Force Headquarters April 14, and will proceed to Brussels in the early summer.

STORE SALES UP 29 P.C.: Department store sales advanced 29 per cent during the week ending April 9, over the corresponding period last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Largest gain of 38 per cent was shown in Saskatchewan, followed by Alberta with 33 per cent, Manitoba and the Maritime Provinces each 32 per cent, Quebec 31 per cent, Ontario 26 per cent and British Columbia 24 per cent.

CANADA-U.S. LABOUR EXCHANGE: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, on April 20, announced the renewal of last year's agreement covering the exchange of farm labour and farm machinery between Canada and the United States.

The Minister stated that this agreement provided for a possible movement of Canadian combines and operators to the United States for the harvest. However, he referred to his statement of April 5, when he had pointed out that United States officials were unable to estimate whether Canadian combines would be needed below the border this summer. The number of local combines in the United States was greater than in previous years, and unless some unforeseen emergency arose, the need for Canadian combines was not likely to be pressing.

Mr. Mitchell added that a meeting of United States and Canadian farm labour officials would be held in Oklahoma City late in April. Until the results of the meeting were known, Canadian farmers who had combines should not anticipate a demand for their services in the United States this year.

SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY: The value of production from Canadian shipyards in 1947 amounted to \$110,131,000 as compared with \$91,851,000 in the preceding year and \$204,594,000 in 1945. The 74 shipyards included in the industry employed an average of 21,119 workers in 1947 and paid out \$46,458,000 in salaries and wages, \$37,264,000 for materials for shipbuilding and \$1,654,000 for fuel and electricity. The 24 establishments on the west coast with production at \$28,598,000 accounted for 26 per cent of the total for Canada, and the 10 yards in Quebec with output at \$49,339,000 accounted for 45 per cent, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

STRUCTURAL STEEL WORK: Gross value of work performed by concerns in the bridge building and structural steel work industry in 1947 amounted to \$52,559,258, an increase of 31 per cent over the preceding year's figure of \$40,122,695, according to the annual report issued by the Bureau of Statistics.

This industry includes all concerns which were occupied chiefly in fabricating or erecting steel for bridges, buildings, etc., and in 1947 covered the operations of 26 plants. These firms gave employment to a monthly average of 7,178 workers, who were paid \$16,132,591 in salaries and wages, as compared with 25 plants which employed 6,091 persons earning \$12,825,390 in 1946.

Principal products of the industry were as follows: 8,098 tons of bridges at \$1,955,464; 146,663 tons of other structural work, such as buildings, transmission towers, etc., at \$29,520,402; plate and tank work at \$3,269,317; and mechanical work, including cranes, trolleys, etc., at \$1,467,089.

AVIATION MEDICINE COURSE: Thirty-four private physicians who carry out flying-fitness examinations for Canadian airplane pilots will be given an intensive course in the latest developments in aviation medicine at a special school to be held in Toronto from April 25 to 30. This was announced on April 21 by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, who said that the school is the first known to be presented to purely civilian examiners in any country. Organized by Dr. H.E. Wilson, Chief of the National Health Department's Division of Civil Aviation Medicine, it is being conducted in co-operation with the Department of Transport and the Royal Canadian Air Force. Lectures will be given at the R.C.A.F.'s Institute of Aviation Medicine in Toronto where special equipment will be available for demonstrations.

SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED: Among the subjects to be covered in the course are air sickness, oxygen requirements and supply, the air transport of the sick, the relationship between crash injury and cockpit design, night vision, altitude sickness, the latest developments in aviation medical research, and the assessment of pilots' abilities in terms of physical and mental factors.

Lecturers will include: Dr. C.P. Fenwick, Medical Director, Canadian Pacific Airlines, Montreal; Dr. K.E. Dowd, Medical Director, Trans-Canada Airlines, Montreal; Dr. J.W. Tice, Past-President of the International Aero Medical Association, Hamilton; G/C.A.A.G. Corbet, Director of Health Services, R.C.A.F., Ottawa; Dr. G.G. Stogdill, Chief, Mental Health Division, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa; W/C B.R. Brown, Officer Commanding, Institute of Aviation Medicine, Toronto; Dr. M.G. Whillans, Secretary, Defence Research Board, Ottawa; Professor W.R. Franks, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto; Dr. J.K.W. Ferguson, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto; Dr. F.A.L. Mathewson, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; Dr. J.J. Green, Air Transport Board, Ottawa; Dr. A.J. Elliot, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto; Dr. J.S. Crawford, Toronto; Dr. G. Manning, Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Ontario, London; Dr. G. Cloutier, Surgical Consultant for the Division of Civil Aviation Medicine, Montreal; Dr. J.A. Sullivan, Consulting Otolologist for the Institute of Aviation Medicine, Toronto; W. Hodges, Physics Department, University of Toronto, and Dr. H.E. Wilson, Ottawa.

Dr. F. deTavel will speak on international aspects of Civil Aviation Medicine.

This course is the first of three planned for this year, Mr. Martin said. Enrolment is limited to doctors appointed by the Department of Transport to give medical examination to airplane pilots. Private pilots, he explained, must undergo a medical examination every 12 months and commercial and airline pilots every six months.

COAL OUTPUT UP: With substantial increases in Alberta and British Columbia and the Yukon, and a minor gain in New Brunswick, Canadian production of coal rose slightly more than two per cent in March over the same month last year. Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan registered the only declines. Imports were down 44 per cent.

Preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics place the all-Canada output at 1,701,000 tons as compared with 1,658,699 a year ago. During the first three months of this year, production rose to 5,202,000 tons as against 4,210,171 in the same period last year. Imports during the month fell to 670,748 tons from 1,206,756 in March 1948, and in the cumulative period to 2,369,355 tons from 3,410,557.

Mines in Alberta produced 783,000 tons in March this year as compared with 704,071 a year earlier. Total for British Columbia and Yukon was 179,000 tons compared with 126,179, Nova Scotia 500,500 (585,147), Saskatchewan 199,000 (206,967), and New Brunswick 39,500 (36,335).

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 7 amounted to 126,911,000 bushels, showing a decline of 3,826,000 from the total for March 31, but a gain of 39,764,000 over last year's corresponding total, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 1,287,300 bushels of wheat during the week ending April 7 as compared with 732,700 in the corresponding week last year. Clearances for export amounted to 3,384,400 bushels, more than double last year's total of 1,592,800.

PRODUCTION OF NAILS: Production of iron and steel wire nails in February amounted to 6,540 tons, down from the 7,193 tons turned out in January, but above last year's corresponding total of 5,670 tons, according to the Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, 13,733 tons were produced as against 12,524 in the similar period last year.

Shipments during the month fell to 6,610 tons from 8,524 in January, but increased slightly over the 6,408 tons shipped a year ago. This brought the cumulative total for the two months of this year to 15,134 tons as against 13,619 in the same period of 1948.

NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER: Captain Owen C.S. Robertson, G.M., R.D., R.C.N., 42, of Montreal and Victoria, has been appointed Senior Canadian Naval Liaison Officer, London, and Commanding Officer of H.M.C.S. "Niobe", depot ship for R.C.N. personnel in the United Kingdom; it was announced on April 20 at Naval Headquarters.

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

REPLY TO USSR: On April 14 the General Assembly heard six more speakers in the debate on the problem of voting in the Security Council, the UN Press Bureau reported.

General A.G.L. McNaughton (Canada), René Mayer (France), Dr. Felix Polleri Carrio (Uruguay) and O.C. Gundersen (Norway) supported the recommendations of the ad hoc Political Committee.

Vladimir Popovic (Yugoslavia) and Dr. Juliusz Katz-Suchy (Poland) opposed the recommendations. Dr. Katz-Suchy strongly criticized the North Atlantic Pact which he compared with the Rome-Berlin axis.

The first speaker was General McNaughton, who stated that his delegation had hoped that, on this occasion, there would not be a prolonged debate on the problem of voting in the Security Council, since this matter had been considered at length not only by the 1st Committee in Paris but on many other occasions.

However, he added, as the representative of the USSR had sought in his statement the previous day to "misrepresent both the issues and the positions of certain countries" upon these issues, he felt it was necessary to clarify Canada's position in regard to the question under discussion.

The representatives of the USSR and of Czechoslovakia had sought to introduce a discussion of the North Atlantic Treaty into the consideration of the veto question, said General McNaughton. In so doing they argued that this Treaty represented a new military and political bloc directed against the USSR.

The facts about the Treaty were well known, continued the Canadian representative, and therefore it was "remarkable" that the Soviet representative should have found it necessary to express such "misapprehension" about it.

The North Atlantic Treaty reaffirms in the very first article of its preamble the faith of the signatories in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, declared General McNaughton. It also expressed their desire to live in peace with all peoples and governments.

It is equally well known, he added, that article 51 of the Charter, upon which the Treaty is based, "specifically" recognizes the "inherent right" of individual or collective self defense if an armed attack occurs "until" the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.

General McNaughton then stressed the view that the North Atlantic Treaty was "exclusively" concerned with protection against attack from "any quarter" and was not "in any respect" directed against "any particular government."

The Canadian Delegation, said General McNaughton, would not agree to having the attention of the General Assembly "deflected" from the "important" report submitted on the problem of voting in the Security Council.

His Delegation shared with others the "disappointment and discontent" of the overwhelming majority of the United Nations, over the way in which the privileged Security Council voting procedure had been "misused to inhibit" the work of that body.

It is because the recommendations of the ad hoc Political Committee "envisage voluntary and sensible moderation" in the use of the veto, said General McNaughton, and because they represent a "constructive step" towards improving the voting procedure in the Security Council, that his delegation would give them its full support.

Concluding, General McNaughton said that his Delegation considered the draft resolution of the USSR on this question "unnecessary;" in fact, he added, "if the Soviet Delegation really wishes -- in the language of its own resolution -- to seek to improve the possibility of adopting concerted decisions in the Security Council, it should accept the moderate and constructive proposals contained in the ad hoc Political Committee's report."

WORLD PULP CONFERENCE: The Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson, announced on April 21 that Mr. D.A. Macdonald, the Dominion Forester, would head the Canadian delegation to the Preparatory Conference on World Pulp Problems which opens in Montreal on April 25.

The Conference is being convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and delegates are expected from more than twenty countries interested in the production and consumption of wood pulp. This meeting which will last for ten days, is the first world conference to be called on wood pulp.

The main purpose of the meeting is to explore and discuss the present and prospective demands for pulp in relation to the productive capacity of the pulp industry and the forests of the world. Recommendations to governments will be based on the conclusions emerging from these discussions.

In addition to Mr. Macdonald, members of the delegation will include N.R. Chappel, Department of Trade and Commerce; R.M. Fowler, President, Canadian Pulp and Paper Association; F.G. Robinson, President, Riordon Sales Corporation, Limited, and J.R.S. McLernon, Director, Dryden Paper Company.

Mr. Gibson also announced that the following Canadian technical advisers and observers would attend the Conference -- Dr. Allon Peebles, T.A. McElhanney and R.G. Ray of the Department of Mines and Resources; G.H. Rochester and W.N. Murphy of the Department of Trade and Commerce; F.L. Mitchell, W.H. O'Reilly, C.S. Pincott, Harold S. Foley, and J.O. Chenevert of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association; E.M. Little of the Anglo-Canadian Pulp

and Paper Mills Limited; C.M. Matheson of the Fraser Companies Limited, and Prentice Bloedel of Bloedel, Stewart and Welch Limited.

The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association is taking an active part in making the arrangements for the Conference: A number of the provincial governments will also be represented.

Invitations have been issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization to the following countries to attend: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of S. Africa, United States, United Kingdom, Russia and Yugoslavia.

(Continued from P.1)

Recent events in Hungary and Bulgaria, he continued, and in other countries in Eastern Europe, had given rise throughout the world to the fear that a new effort was being made in these countries to reduce the church to a position where it would become a mere agency of government. These developments cannot be ignored, he said.

Mr. Lapointe then referred to the specific obligations of members of the United Nations under the Charter to promote respect and observance of human rights and freedoms for all.

If therefore falls upon the Assembly, he said, to consider the grave charges which had been made regarding events in Bulgaria and Hungary, and to call upon those Governments, "with all the authority of this world Organization," to abandon their attempts to suppress religion and their assault upon that most precious stronghold of the human spirit, religious freedom.

REVIEWS RECENT TRIALS

Mr. Lapointe then reviewed the recent trials in Hungary and Bulgaria. The events, he said, represented a natural outgrowth of communism which today holds these two countries in its grip. "We know that in a communist state," he said, "it is a fixed principle that all human effort, aspiration and conviction must be subordinated to the dictates and the will of that party which runs the state."

The people in Canada, he said, in common with the people of all other countries where civil liberties are cherished, had been profoundly disturbed by the assault against liberty in Eastern Europe, and particularly by the persecutions of the church leaders in Bulgaria and Hungary.

His Government, Mr. Lapointe said, had already taken certain steps in association with other governments to recall to the Hungarian and Bulgarian Governments their solemn obligations under the peace treaties to safeguard the civil and religious rights of their people.

The Canadian Government, he continued, protested strongly against that policy of repression and religious persecution.

Perhaps these protests and expressions of world opinion, the Canadian representative declared, will fall upon "deaf ears and hardened consciences." But Mr. Lapointe expressed the hope that eventually this earnest desire of mankind to protect the freedom of conscience and of the churches, will prevail.

It was hoped, he said, that the present discussion in the Assembly will at least "focus the attention" of Bulgaria and Hungary on the "aroused opinion of the world."

The question immediately before the Committee, he said, was what remedies should be sought. Firstly, he believed there must be a full and free discussion of the fundamental issues involved. Secondly, the Assembly should express its deep concern on this matter and give its support to the steps already taken by the governments signatory to the peace treaties to find remedies through procedures laid down in the treaties with the two States concerned.

As the Bolivian draft resolution embodied this approach, Mr. Lapointe concluded, the Canadian Delegation would give that resolution its support.

ICAO LONDON CONFERENCE: An International Civil Aviation Organization conference to arrange for the international financing and operation of air navigation services opened on April 20 in London to consider four separate joint support projects. These include the financing of a long range navigational aid station in the Faeroe Islands, meteorological facilities in Greenland, the renewal and revision of the current agreement which maintains 13 floating ocean stations in the North Atlantic for weather reporting and air navigational purposes, and a request from the Government of Greece for financial aid to improve the facilities at Ellinikon Airport (a civil airport near Athens) and for other essential air navigation services required for the safety of international air transport through Greece. The Greek request involves an initial expenditure of \$3,300,000 with an annual operating cost of \$700,000; the Greenland project involves an annual cost of some \$800,000.

Sir Frederick Tymms, United Kingdom representative on the ICAC Council, was elected chairman of the conference. Mr. C.S. Booth (Canada) will serve as chairman for the North Atlantic Ocean Station meeting, Mr. Paul David (United States) for the Greenland and Faeroes meeting, and Sir Frederick Tymms for the Greek conference.

Representatives of 14 nations are present at the joint support conference which is expected to continue for several weeks.

RETAIL STORE SALES \$7,276,400,000

DOUBLED IN SEVEN YEARS. Dollar volume of retail sales in Canada has more than doubled during the last seven years, all regions of the country sharing in this general expansion -- although trends have not been uniformly parallel -- and all trades showing gains of substantial but varying proportions.

According to estimates by the Bureau of Statistics, consumer expenditures in Canadian retail stores in 1948 reached a total of \$7,276,400,000. This compares with \$3,436,800,000 in 1941, when the last complete measurement of Canada's retail business was made in the Decennial Census. Last year's volume exceeded by nearly 11 per cent the previous high estimated expenditures of \$6,562,900,000 for 1947.

The Bureau's estimates for 1948 and 1947 are based on the findings of a scientifically selected sample embracing all kinds of business and representing all provinces, and form one of the features of the development of a new and improved retail series. As the sample consists of businesses which have operated continuously from 1941 to 1948, it can be assumed, states the Bureau's report, that the estimates for the last two years would be slightly larger if adjustment for the net change in the number of retail businesses were possible. A study to bring about this further refinement will be completed during the next 12 months.

By regions, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia have shown the greatest percentage increase in retail sales from 1941 to 1948. Sales in British Columbia have risen from \$309,600,000 to an estimated \$731,300,000; in Alberta from \$221,100,000 to \$519,200,000; Saskatchewan, \$186,900,000 to \$459,200,000; and Manitoba, smallest relative gain of the four, from \$210,800,000 to \$440,300,000. In Ontario and Quebec, the rise in sales over the period have been closely in line with the average for the whole country. Dollar volume for Ontario advanced from \$1,407,000,000 to an estimated \$2,887,800,000 in 1948, and for Quebec from \$818,700,000 to \$1,697,200,000. Sales in the Maritime Provinces moved up from \$282,800,000 to \$541,400,000.

By trades, gains between 1948 and 1941 in excess of 100 per cent and in some cases 125 per cent have been shown by grocery and combination stores, meat stores, country general stores, department stores, men's clothing, women's clothing, family clothing, shoe, hardware, lumber and building materials, furniture, electrical appliances and radio, and tobacco businesses, and by restaurants. Each of the remaining six separate trades shown in the Bureau's new series -- variety, motor vehicle, garages and filling stations, coal and wood, drug, and jewellery -- had gains exceeding 75 per cent, while a residual group of all other trades increased over 125 per cent.

NAVAL DIRECTOR RETIRES: Retirement because of ill health of Douglas G.L. Pittman, M.B.E., 55, of Ottawa and Halifax, Director of Naval

Stores, took place this month, it has been announced. Harry N. MacNamara, formerly Deputy Director of Naval Stores, succeeds Mr. Pittman.