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NATIONAL HARBOURS HAVE RECORD YEAR

For the second year in a row, the National Harbours Board has reported record-breaking business at its ports. The Board's twenty-sixth annual report, tabled in the House of Commons by Mr. Léon Balcer, the Minister of Transport, showed an all-time high in operating income. It also indicated new records in cargo tonnage handled and in the tonnage of ship arrivals. The Board administers the ports of Halifax, Saint John, Chicoutimi, Quebec, Three Rivers, Montreal, Churchill and Vancouver, as well as transfer grain elevators at Prescott, Ontario, and Port Colborne, Ontario.

Its operating income in 1961 was \$29 million, up 7 per cent over 1960, while operating expenses only increased by slightly more than 3 per cent during that period.

A net operating income at year end of \$11 million was an improvement of \$1.3 million over 1960. After taking into account investment income, provision for interest and depreciation and certain minor items, the Board's operations broke even with a small surplus of \$2,007. In spite of larger sums being set aside for interest and depreciation and higher operating costs, the year's operations compare favourably with 1960 when a loss of \$788,808 was incurred.

The report revealed that, with the exception of the item "Railway Systems", there was an improvement in earnings in major harbour accounts. Of these, "Harbours" (general) and "Grain Elevator Systems" showed the best performance in comparison with the previous year. It is interesting to note, too, that operating expenses were reduced in the accounts for "Wharves and Piers", "Permanent Sheds" and

"Railway Systems", in spite of rising wages and higher operating costs.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Capital expenditures amounted to \$24.3 million and were financed by \$19 million from government loans, \$1.5 million from the Board's replacement funds and \$3.9 million from Board revenue. The 1961 capital programme affecting all NHB ports included new or improved wharves, new transit sheds and one transit-shed extension, additions and improvements to grain-elevator systems and loading and unloading facilities. Uncompleted work on major contracts at the year's end amounted to \$15.4 million.

Payments to the Government totalled \$11.3 million, which consisted of \$3.9 million in interest on loans and \$7.4 million in principal. The reserve funds for replacement, fire and general insurance, workmen's compensation and special maintenance were increased by \$1.5 million.

Traffic statistics in the NHB report show that Canada's national harbours enjoyed a busy year in 1961. The aggregate net registered tonnage of vessels calling at the ports under NHB administration was 62,765,693, compared to 60,178,622 in 1960.

Cargo tonnage surpassed all previous records. Canada's bustling national harbours handled 61,106,769 tons of cargo in 1961, up 17 per cent from 1960. Major commodities that registered gains were grain, crude petroleum, fuel oil, bituminous coal, gasoline, pulpwood, logs, cement, woodpulp, asbestos, iron ore, hog fuel, and iron and steel products. Decreases were shown in gypsum, lumber,

(Over)

flour, sugar, newsprint, sand and gravel, and motor vehicles and parts.

The heightened activity was shared by all types of movements through the ports. Foreign inward traffic increased by 9 per cent over 1960, while the corresponding increase in foreign outward traffic was 24 per cent. Domestic inward traffic was up by 22 per cent over 1960 and domestic outward movements increased by 13 per cent over the period reported.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Requirements for mass medical transportation in wartime emergencies will be the subject of an exhaustive study, it has been announced by Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare. Mr. Monteith has chosen the Emergency Health Services Division of the Department to carry out the survey and provide plans for this important phase of national survival.

Appointed to head the project is Lieutenant-Colonel Robert L. Mummery, formerly Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, at Army Headquarters in Ottawa. His duties will include the study of the problems involved in transporting casualties from disaster areas and their distribution to available hospitals, and recommendations for the control and suitability of civilian vehicles for patient-carrying. Other factors to be studied include the number and types of suitable vehicles operated by the armed forces, and transportation for the rapid distribution of blood and all types of medical supplies which would be required in the event of an emergency.

EXPORT CREDITS INSURANCE

The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Hees, recently tabled in the House of Commons the annual report of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation for 1961, which indicates that exports insured amounted to \$65,602,617 for the Corporation's account and \$65,607,223 for account of the Government under Section 21 of the Act. Since the establishment of the Corporation in 1945, a total of \$1,050 million in export sales has been insured.

There were 301 policies current at the end of 1961, the largest number in force at any time in the Corporation's experience. They covered a wide variety of products shipped to some 95 countries. Their classification by export volume shows that insurance protection was obtained by large, medium and small exporters.

LONG-RANGE FINANCING

The Corporation has also provided facilities for long-term financing under Section 21A of the Act, totalling \$41 million for capital goods to be exported to Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, requiring more than 5.7 million man hours of Canadian labour to produce. In addition, the Corporation has given commitments to Canadian exporters in connection with the financing of prospective export orders totalling \$114 million.

The excess of premium income over expenses and policy-holders' claims amounted to \$809,635 for the year.

PURPOSE OF CORPORATION

The business of the Corporation is to provide insurance at an appropriate premium for Canadian exporters of goods and services who wish to protect themselves against certain risks of non-payment, such as the insolvency of a foreign buyer. Exporters are unable to protect themselves against this risk by means of ordinary commercial insurance, except in the case of sales to buyers in the United States. There is also the risk of cancellation of an import licence, and the risk of the buyer's inability to transfer the foreign exchange. These are risks over which the exporters themselves have no control, and against which ordinary commercial insurance is not available. Generally, the policies protect against losses arising from circumstances beyond the control of both the buyer and the seller.

A WATER RESOURCES PROBLEM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has announced that the Governments of Canada and the United States have requested the International Joint Commission to investigate and report on what measures could be taken to develop the water resources of the Pembina River in the Province of Manitoba and the State of North Dakota.

The International Joint Commission was established pursuant to the terms of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 in order to facilitate the settlement of questions of mutual interest to Canada and the United States in the general field of boundary waters and related matters.

This new reference has been made by governments in the light of the conclusion of the Commission that detailed feasibility studies should be undertaken concerning possible development of the Pembina River basin.

OBJECT OF STUDIES

The Commission has been requested by governments to determine what plan or plans of co-operative development of the water resources of the Pembina River basin would be practicable, economically feasible and to the mutual advantage of both countries. The Commission is asked to bear in mind the requirements of domestic water supply and sanitation, control of floods, irrigation and any other beneficial uses of these waters. Governments have further asked the Commission, in the event that it finds a plan or plans meeting these criteria, to make recommendations concerning the choice and implementation of such plan or plans.

NATIONAL SAFETY MEET

Canada's annual national traffic-safety forum will be held this year on May 7, 8 and 9, it was announced recently by the Canadian Highway Safety Council. This will be the CHSC's eighth conference and is

expected to attract more than 300 delegates from all parts of Canada. C.E. Carson, the Council's general chairman, will preside. Mr. Carson is a director of Imperial Oil Ltd.

Delegates will deal with many topics, including traffic-safety education, traffic courts, the older driver, braking systems in cars and trucks, moral responsibility in driving, and seat belts. Women are expected to attend in larger numbers than ever before, and special sessions are planned for them, including a general session on "The Woman's Hand in Traffic Safety" on May 8. Youth will also have a more prominent role in the programme, and a special youth dinner will be held the evening of May 8, following a panel seeking the opinions of youth on highway safety. The Carol Lane Awards and CHSC's citation awards to Canadian communities with outstanding traffic safety records will be presented.

CAMEROUN AMBASSADOR

On March 29, Mr. Jacques Kuoh-Moukouri presented his Letter of Credence as first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cameroun to Canada.

The ceremony took place at Government House. Mr. Henry F. Davis, Chief of Protocol, Department of External Affairs, presented the Ambassador to the Governor-General. Mr. Marcel Cadieux, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Esmond Bulter, Secretary to the Governor-General, were in attendance.

Mr. Kuoh-Moukouri has held various administrative positions in the service of his Government since 1947. With the independence of Cameroun in 1960, he became Ambassador in Paris, which position he held until his present appointment as resident Ambassador in Washington and non-resident Ambassador to Ottawa.

COMMERCIAL FAILURES

Business failures recorded under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts in 1961 numbered 2,600, a decrease of 8.1 per cent from the preceding year's revised total of 2,828. The estimated total of defaulted liabilities was \$103,613,000, a decrease of 40.6 per cent from \$174,548,000; the average per failure dropped to \$39,851 from \$61,721.

Failures in the trade sector rose to 1,233 from 1,229, with food, automotive products, hardware and furniture and appliance stores accounting for the majority of failures in the group. Bankruptcies in manufacturing dropped to 268 from 323, in construction to 457 from 619, in transportation, communications and utilities to 108 from 129, and in the primary industries to 75 from 100. Failures in service industries were up to 393 from 363.

There were 1,422 failures in Quebec in 1961, compared with 1,638 in the preceding year, while total estimated liabilities declined from \$61,851,000 in 1960 to \$42,886,000 in 1961. The number of bankruptcies in Ontario increased from 914 in 1960 to

924, while liabilities declined from \$91,090,000 to \$44,549,000. In the Prairie Provinces the number of failures increased slightly but the liabilities declined from \$7,732,000 in 1960 to \$6,137,000. In British Columbia the number of business failures fell from 120 to 94 in the 1960-61 comparison, the total liabilities from \$10,307,000 to \$6,585,000. There were 48 business failures in the Atlantic Provinces both in 1960 and 1961, and their liabilities declined to \$3,456,000 from \$3,568,000.

RCN HONOURS HONG KONG DEAD

In a simple ceremony in Saiwan War Cemetery on April 1, more than 300 Canadian seamen paid tribute to their fellow countrymen and other Commonwealth troops who had fallen in the defence of Hong Kong more than 21 years ago.

Officers and men of the destroyers "Assiniboine", "Margaree" and "Ottawa" paraded to the cemetery for prayers in memory of those of the Royal Rifles of Canada, the Winnipeg Grenadiers and other Canadian and Commonwealth servicemen who had paid the supreme sacrifice in December 1941, when Hong Kong fell.

A wreath in the shape of a maple leaf was placed at the foot of the memorial by the commander of the Second Canadian Escort Squadron, Captain Victor Browne, of Ottawa, Ontario and Victoria, British Columbia. The naval personnel were joined at the cemetery by members of the Canadian community in Hong Kong, including the Canadian Trade Commissioner, Maxwell Forsyth-Smith. The three Canadian destroyer escorts, all based at Esquimalt, British Columbia, were on their way home from a three-and-a-half-month training and goodwill cruise in Asian waters. They are due back in their home port on April 19.

CANADA COUNCIL SHORT-TERM GRANTS

Winners of Canada Council short-term research grants were announced recently. The awards range in value from \$300 to \$1,200 in accordance with the nature and duration of the programme proposed and are intended for post-doctoral scholars who have need of assistance over a short period. Such assistance is often required by university professors wishing to do research or writing during the summer months. The present awards are designed to cover maintenance and necessary travel expenses for such research and are available to residents of the country or Canadians temporarily living abroad.

AIRPORT ART PANEL

A panel of eight Canadians distinguished in the realm of the fine arts has been named to advise the Minister of Transport on works in this field for the new terminal building at Winnipeg International Airport.

Their names were released by the department today. They are: Dr. Jean Boggs, who will soon take

up her duties as chief curator of the Toronto Art Gallery; Dr. Charles F. Comfort, director of the National Gallery; Mr. Wolfgang Gerson, acting director of the University of British Columbia's School of Architecture; Dr. T.A. Heinrich, director of the Royal Ontario Museum; Mr. John C. Parkin, chairman of the National Design Council; Mr. John A. Russell, director of the School of Architecture at the University of Manitoba; Dr. Evan H. Tumer, director of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; and Mr. G. Leslie Russell of Green, Blankstein, Russell Associates, consulting architects on the building.

NRC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 1962-63

The National Research Council of Canada has granted 722 scholarships for 1962-63, with a total value of \$1,485,100. Six hundred and thirty-nine of these are for graduate work at Canadian universities. They include 201 bursaries worth \$2000 each and 438 studentships worth \$2400 each. Awards for study abroad include 49 special scholarships worth \$2400 each. Forty-one of these are to be held in the United Kingdom, six in the United States, one in Belgium, and one in the Netherlands.

Thirty-four postdoctorate overseas fellowships, valued at \$4500 for married and \$3500 for single fellows, have been granted for work in the following countries: 23 in the United Kingdom; three in France; two each in Germany, Japan and Switzerland; one in Sweden, and one in the United States.

GUINEA-CANADA RELATIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, has announced that the Canadian Government has established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Guinea. The two governments have agreed to exchange ambassadors.

Canada has appointed Mr. B.M. Williams, Canadian High Commissioner in Ghana, as non-resident Canadian Ambassador to Guinea. Guinea has appointed Mr. Saidou Conté, Guinea's Ambassador to the United States, as non-resident Ambassador of Guinea to Canada.

It is hoped that, with the establishment of relations and the exchange of ambassadors between Canada and the Republic of Guinea, there will be increased possibilities for fruitful and mutually beneficial contacts between the two countries.

ELECTION TO DESIGN COUNCIL

At its last meeting, Canada's National Design Council elected Gaeton C. Morrisette vice-chairman. Mr. Morrisette is Chairman of the Board, Standard Brands Ltd., Montreal, and was appointed mem-

ber of the National Design Council when that body was formed last September.

The Council was set up under the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. George Hees, to promote better design of Canadian manufactured products and to focus the attention of the buying public in Canada and abroad on the best in Canadian design.

The 17-member Council is currently engaged in rounding out a programme of activities in the field of industrial design, which includes exhibitions, awards, and scholarships for advanced study in industrial design. A National Register of Designers has been established to serve manufacturers by bringing them into direct touch with the professional designer and consultant.

RCN AVIATION TROPHY

Naval Air Squadron VU-32, based at HMCS "Shearwater", the Royal Canadian Navy's air station at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, has been awarded the Wilkinson Trophy for 1961. The award is made annually to the RCN unit contributing most to the efficiency and effectiveness of naval aviation.

The trophy, a silver model of a "Seafire" aircraft, was presented for competition by David Wilkinson, DSC, of Brook, Surrey, England, who, in 1946, as a Lieutenant-Commander, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, commanded the RCN's first fighter squadron, 803.

Since 1958, the trophy has been won by VX-10 (experimental), HS-50 (anti-submarine helicopter) and VF-870 (jet-fighter) squadrons.

VU-32 is commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Steward R. Linquist, of Fort William, Ontario, and Dartmouth. The squadron, equipped with "Tracker" anti-submarine aircraft and "Silver Star" jet trainers, carries out advanced pilot training and fleet utility duties.

JANUARY LABOUR INCOME

Canada's paid workers received an estimated \$1,566 million in January in the form of salaries and wages and supplementary labour income, according to advance figures that will be contained in the January issue of "Estimates of Labour Income", issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The current total is 1.3 per cent below the December 1961 figure of \$1,586 million and 6.7 per cent above last year's January total of \$1,467 million.

All regions posted lower totals in January compared to December 1961 and higher totals compared to January last year. Decreases from the preceding month (increases from a year ago in brackets) were: Atlantic region, 2.8 per cent (6.1 per cent); Quebec, 1.2 per cent (8.0 per cent); Ontario, 0.9 per cent (7.1 per cent); prairie region, 1.7 per cent (5.6 per cent); and British Columbia, 0.6 per cent (5.2 per cent)