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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

CANADA-U.S. AIR AGREEMENT: The Department of External Affairs announced on June 5 that the delegations representing the Canadian and United States Governments which have been discussing bilateral air arrangements between the two countries have concluded and signed a new bilateral air agreement on scheduled air services to replace the one presently in effect which was signed early in 1945.

The new agreement differs from its predecessor in form in that it adopts the pattern for bilateral agreements that has been evolving in recent years. This pattern, which is based on certain standard articles developed at the Chicago International Air Conference in 1944, is known generally as the Bermuda-type agreement since the first agreement of this type was concluded in Bermuda between the United States and the United Kingdom.

The new agreement provides for the exercise of traffic rights in each country by scheduled airlines of the other on certain agreed international through routes. Certain changes were made in the existing network of trans-border air services between the two countries.

The changes in trans-border services are that the United States has been granted a direct route between New York and Toronto, replacing its existing route from Buffalo to Toronto. This route will directly parallel the existing Canadian route from Toronto to New York. The United States has also received a route from Great Falls, Montana, to Edmonton, Alberta, which may be operated in conjunction

with the existing U.S. service from Great Falls to Lethbridge.

Canada has received a direct route from Montreal to New York which will directly parallel the existing U.S. route between New York and Montreal.

Under these arrangements carriers of both countries may both operate between the largest city in the United States and the two largest cities in Canada. In other respects the existing pattern of trans-border services is not changed.

In addition the United States has been granted two international through routes, the first from the United States through Gander, Newfoundland, and on across the Atlantic and the second from the United States through Edmonton to Alaska and the Orient. U.S. carriers on these routes may pick up and set down traffic at Gander and at Edmonton.

Canada has been granted a through route to Hawaii and on to Australasia and a through route to Florida and on to the Caribbean. On these routes Canadian carriers may pick up and set down traffic at Honolulu and at Tampa, Florida.

The chairman of the two delegations expressed great satisfaction at the conclusion of the negotiations and stated their belief that the new agreement is a fair and reasonable arrangement which will add to the already excellent record of close and friendly aviation relations between the two countries.

(C.W.B. June 10, 1949)

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL: An expenditure of \$11,000 has been approved by the Department of National Health and Welfare for research into two phases of tuberculosis control in Ontario, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, announced on June 3.

The first of these will deal with advanced studies in pulmonary function to be carried out by Dr. John H.C. Douglas in a specially-equipped laboratory of the Chest Medical Division, Columbia University, Bellevue Hospital, New York City, at a cost of \$5,000. The research involves use of the Millikan oximeter, an apparatus being developed to measure the extent of pulmonary disability.

The second project is for the study of the preparation of a new form of B.C.G. and its administration. The work will be carried out at the School of Hygiene, University of Toronto, at a cost of \$6,000. It is hoped that a method will be found to prepare B.C.G. in powdered form, thus allowing satisfactory use when a considerable time elapses between its preparation and administration.

Costs of these projects will be charged against Ontario's share in the more than \$3,000,000 allocated annually to the provinces for the extension of tuberculosis control under the national health program.

RESOURCES DEPT. SURVEYS: Nine Geographical Bureau parties, with assignments ranging from the Arctic to the shores of the Great Lakes and the Interior Plateau of British Columbia, will carry out field investigations during the coming summer, it was announced on June 3 by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

One party has already commenced work, three others will leave Ottawa early this month, and the remaining four are scheduled to start their investigations during the first part of July.

Four geographers, a botanist, and a geologist will work on the east coast of James and Hudson Bays and explore newly discovered islands in Foxe Basin. They will travel in a diesel-powered vessel, the "Nauja", which will be launched shortly at Moosonee, Ont. Head of the party will be T.H. Manning, of the Geographical Bureau, who is well-known for his work in the North. Other personnel will be D.B. Coombs, of Ottawa, C.L. Merrill, of London, Ont., and R.W. Packer, of Burlington, Ont., geographers; W.K.W. Baldwin, National Museum of Canada, and C.A. Burns, Geological Survey.

The Geographical Bureau will be represented on two expeditions sponsored by the Arctic Institute of North America. J.L. Jenness, of the Geographical Bureau, and A.E. Porsild, Chief Botanist, National Museum of Canada, will accompany a party proceeding by aircraft to the Western Arctic Islands, particularly Victoria Island, W.A. Black, of Ottawa, R.G. Beaton, of Oshawa, and a student assistant, N. McArthur, of London, Ont., will proceed to

the Labrador Coast aboard the "Blue Dolphin", a ship belonging to the Institute and commanded by David C. Nutt, of Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.

Dr. R.T. Gajda, of the Bureau, will conduct special Arctic investigations, George A. Wood, of Vancouver, will work in Hudson Strait and at ports of call of the Hudson's Bay Company motor vessel "Rupertsland", and a geographer will accompany the Dominion Observatory party travelling to the Western Arctic Islands.

Headed by B.V. Gutsell, of the Bureau, a party will carry out investigations on the shores of the Great Lakes, travelling on a vessel of the Hydrographic Service.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: Attendance at the second Canadian International Trade Fair on Wednesday June 1, the first public day, reached the record total of 24,000. This is an increase of about 5,000 over the first public day's attendance last year.

Many exhibitors, from outside Canada in particular, consider the Canadian International Trade Fair to be a valuable medium for market research. One such firm is Branksome Ceramics Ltd., of Bournemouth, England. Displaying their china at the Trade Fair last year, they made a definite point of asking buyers and the Canadian public what new pieces they would like to see on their dinner table. Branksome Ceramics found that Canadians wanted muffin covers, salad dishes and individual creams and sugars. These pieces, produced exclusively for the North American market are on display this year at the Canadian International Trade Fair, and the firm expects its overall sales to exceed those of last year.

The products and businessmen of the world are definitely brought together at the second Canadian International Trade Fair. A Greek businessman visiting the Fair has been negotiating with a number of exhibitors, and as a result has been appointed exclusive agent in Greece for a Canadian washing machine company, and for various British textile and linoleum manufacturers.

Leland Detroit Mfg. Co. of Detroit, Mich., have established an agency for their meat tenderizing equipment in Manila, the Philippines, as a result of their participation as exhibitors in the Canadian International Trade Fair.

Another United States firm, Gould and Lewis Co. of New York have sold some of their silverware to a buyer at the Trade Fair from Detroit, in spite of the fact that the firm has had an agent in Detroit for some time.

Genwind of Birmingham, England, manufacturers of vacuum cleaners and paint sprayers, have sold 1250 vacuum cleaners to a Canadian buyer, and have sent a sample shipment of sprayers to a Cleveland buyer, marking the first time their product has entered the United States market. A Canadian department store has

bought up the entire Genwind exhibit, and through the Canadian International Trade Fair, the firm has been able to establish an agency in Canada.

FAMED MASCOT TO MARCH: One of the Second World War's most famed mascots is to forego her green pastures of retirement for a few days in order to help Haligonians celebrate the bicentennial of that city.

Princess Louise, the horse mascot of the 8th (New Brunswick) Hussars, will have an honoured place in the mammoth parade on June 21. Picked up on an Italian battlefield as a badly wounded colt by troops of the Hussars, the Princess has since marched wherever the regiment has appeared in the past four years. Her regimental trappings include a complete row of service ribbons, three wound stripes and the famous unit patches of the Hussars.

After the horse was "repatriated" to Canada in 1946 amid a shower of oats and confetti, members of the unit provided her with a lifetime pension of green pastures, oats and careful grooming. Citizen's of King's County gave her the "Freedom of the County" including the "inalienable" right to roam flower beds and vegetable gardens without fear of winding up in a glue factory. She even has a membership card in the Canadian Legion complete with hoofprint and all.

As far as the records reveal, Princess Louise has committed but one faux pas since "joining" the Hussars. Three years ago she calmly nibbled at Lady Alexander's flower bouquet while being inspected by the Governor General.

ARMY STAFF COURSES: Fifty-four Canadian Army officers have been selected to attend the forthcoming staff courses at the Canadian Army Staff College, Kingston, Ont., the Staff College at Camberley, England, and the Staff College at Queenscliffe, Australia. Army Headquarters announced on June 3. The next course at Kingston starts in January, 1950.

In addition to those selected for the forthcoming courses, 22 officers also passed the recent qualifying examinations and their names have been placed on the Staff College recommended list for future courses.

Major G.R. Hale, DSO, RCAC, of Barrie, Ont., is the officer nominated to attend the Australian College. Going to England next year for the Camberley course will be Major N.W. Reilander, RCA, Shilo, Man.; Major H.A. Snelgrove, RCIC, Calgary, Alta., and Major J.S. Ussher, RCAC, Barrie, Ont.

EMPLOYMENT UPSWING: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced on June 3 that at the middle of May unplaced applicants registered for employment in Canada with the National Employment Service were 51,400 fewer than one month previous.

Unplaced applicants at May 12 for Canada totalled 178,800 as compared with 230,200 at the middle of April.

The seasonal upswing in employment had been felt in all regions with Quebec leading the way with a drop in unplaced applicants of 17,900 in this 30-day period. Ontario showed a reduction of 12,600; the Prairie Provinces 10,200; Pacific Region 8,700; and the Maritimes 1,900.

The situation in British Columbia had greatly improved during recent weeks, Mr. Mitchell stated. On May 19, unplaced applicants in the Vancouver area numbered about 14,500, 3,400 fewer than the month previous. Unemployment insurance "live claims" in that city at the end of April stood at about 11,400 as compared with 22,800 at the end of February.

MEDICAL FELLOWSHIPS: Medical Fellowships have been awarded by the National Research Council to 38 graduates in medicine to enable them to pursue postgraduate research during 1949-50.

The grantees represent eleven different universities, including one in Australia, one in Scotland and one in China. The fellowship holders will carry on their research investigations at fourteen research institutions. Eight of these research centres are located in Canada, five in the United States, and one in England. Distribution of the awards by institutions at which they will be held is as follows: McGill, 9; Western Ontario, 9; Toronto, 6; Stanford, U.S.A., 1; Montreal Neurological Institute, 3; Alberta, 1; Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A., 1; Dalhousie, 1; Oxford, England, 1; Manitoba, 1; Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, 1; Duke University, Durham, U.S.A., 1; Cambridge, U.S.A., 1; Utah, U.S.A., 1; Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, U.S.A., 1.

Medical Fellowships vary in amount from \$1500 to \$2500, depending on the previous training and experience of the candidates.

The Division of Medical Research of the National Research Council also makes grants-in-aid to Canadian universities for medical research studies on approved subjects. During the present year, 128 such grants valued at \$267,832.95 are being held. Value of the 38 Medical Fellowships awarded this year is \$75,500.

WILDLIFE OFFICER: The appointment of Harry R. Webster to the position of Dominion Wildlife Officer for the three Maritime Provinces has been announced by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

LEADING MINERALS: Output of all but six of Canada's 16 leading minerals moved upwards in March over the corresponding month last year, while in the first quarter, production was advanced in all but five items. In the month

there were declines in asbestos, lead, lime, natural gas, salt and silver; in the quarter there were decreases in asbestos, clay products, lead, silver, and zinc. In both periods, the sharp fall in the production of asbestos was a result of the labour dispute.

POPULATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND: Of a total population of 242,946 in Newfoundland, 10 years of age and over at the 1945 Census, 210,064 or 87 per cent were reported as being able to read and write. Comparative figures for 1935 show that 221,384 persons were 10 years of age or over, and of these, 174,337 or almost 79 per cent were reported as being able to read and write.

The increase in the 10-year period in the number of persons who were able to read and write was 35,727, or more than 20 per cent. Conversely, the number of persons 10 years of age or over reported as being unable to read or write dropped from 40,458 to 29,072 during the same period. These facts are revealed in a report released by the Bureau of Statistics, based on the results of the Census of Newfoundland, taken by the Newfoundland Government in 1945.

Almost 89 per cent of the female population were reported as being able to read and write in 1945 as compared with 84 per cent of the male population. In the previous Census of 1935, 82 per cent of the female population and 76 per cent of the male population were reported in this class.

INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS: The Bureau of Statistics on June 1 released a comprehensive report entitled "The Canadian Balance of International Payments, 1926 to 1948." The first chapter of this volume is devoted to a discussion of the uses and nature of balance of payments statements, while the second chapter deals with the characteristics of the Canadian balance of payments. Chapters three, four and five discuss the course of Canadian balance of payments during the interwar years, the wartime period, and the early post-war period. Chapter six deals with Canada's international investment position.

The volume is divided into three sections. Part one contains a description and analysis of trends in international transactions with statistics covering the period from 1926 to 1948. A description of the sources of information and statistical methods appears in part two -- bringing up to date the detailed description of methods developed in the period up to 1939 which were described in the report, "The Canadian Balance of International Payments, A Study of Methods and Results", published in 1939. Part three contains detailed statistical tables.

LANDINGS OF SEA FISH: Catch and landed value of sea fish were lower in April than in the corresponding month last year, decreases being shown on both coasts, according to the Bureau of Statistics. On the Atlantic, cod, pollock, and sardines showed the main reductions, while herring, clams and quahaugs were more plentiful. There were declines on the Pacific in the landings of cod and salmon, but an increase in herring.

Total landings in the month amounted to 32,733,000 pounds with a value of \$2,071,000 compared with 35,926,000 pounds valued at \$2,385,000 a year ago.

LIST OF HOSPITALS: A list of hospitals operating in Canada has been published by the Bureau of Statistics. The various types of hospitals -- public, private and nursing homes, hospitals and homes for incurables, tuberculosis sanatoria and tuberculosis units in other hospitals, mental institutions, and federal Government hospitals -- are shown by provinces and are listed alphabetically according to location. Figures on the bed capacity of each are also given.

WORLD WHEAT CROP: The outlook for the world's 1949 wheat crop has shown some improvement over the past month, states the Bureau of Statistics in its monthly review of the wheat situation.

The May 10 crop report of the United States Department of Agriculture placed the current winter wheat crop at 1,021 million bushels and indicated that with average yields on the prospective spring wheat acreage, a total wheat crop of 1,312 million bushels could be harvested. A crop of this order would approach the 1947 record of 1,367 million and would exceed by a wide margin the 1937-46 average of 943 million bushels.

In Canada, farmers, on the basis of their intentions at April 30, indicated they would seed 3,000,000 more acres to spring wheat this year than last, making a total of just under 27,000,000 acres seeded to wheat for harvest in 1949. During the latter part of May timely rains fell over large sections of the Prairie Provinces where drought had been imminent. Material improvement in crop conditions resulted but moisture reserves are still far below normal in many parts of the west. Frequent and ample rainfall will be required during the growing season to mature a satisfactory crop. Slight damage from frost has occurred on the Prairies and strong measures are being taken in many areas to combat serious infestations of grasshoppers.

A recent report from the Argentine indicates that planting of wheat is now under way with soil conditions mostly satisfactory.

NO PRESENT EXTENSION OF FOREIGN CREDITS

MR. HOWE'S LETTER: Following is text of the reply of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, to W.D. Jewett, President, Canadian Exporters' Association, concerning the brief submitted by the Association under date of April 25:

May 19, 1949
Dear Mr. Jewett:

I have read with care the brief on Canada's export trade that you submitted under date of April 25, and which was awaiting me on my return from a trade mission to the United Kingdom.

I am well aware of the tightening up of export markets as a result of unbalance of exports and imports from dollar areas, and when I was in England I gave this problem the priority that it obviously deserves. We in Canada should appreciate the need for restrictions arising out of the dollar situation, since we in this country have the same dollar problems as every other country in the world, except the United States, and possibly one or two other smaller countries. The real correction of the situation lies in bringing about a better balance between imports and exports. This Government will continue its best efforts in that direction.

NINE RECOMMENDATIONS

In your brief you make nine recommendations, but as in several instances two or more of the recommendations involve the same general principle, I will deal with the matters raised by the subject involved.

Recommendations Nos. 4, 5 and 8 all involve the extension of credit to a foreign country. Recommendation No. 4 suggests direct credits, No. 5 suggests the holding of non-convertible currencies, which is, in effect, the extension of credit, although on a non-interest-bearing basis and without any definite maturity. Recommendation No. 8 deals with credits extended through the chartered banks.

There are two prerequisites to the extension of foreign credits: one, the ability of the lender to finance the loan, and the other the willingness of the borrower to incur obligations. The measure of a country's ability to extend credit is the current surplus on its overall balance of payments, which means, generally, the surplus of its exports over its imports. Any extension of credits beyond this point could only be undertaken if the country concerned was in the position of being able to allow its foreign exchange reserves to be run down. Canada's reserve position, which has improved substantially from the low point that it reached at the end of 1947, is still not such that any substantial reduction can be contemplated through the extension of foreign credits. It is still too early to forecast

with accuracy the surplus on our balance of payments this year, since so much depends on the size of our crops. At present, however, it does not appear that there is justification for any substantial extension of the credits, grants, and other forms of assistance that have already been arranged.

In so far as the potential borrowers are concerned, there is in a number of the more important cases considerable doubt as to whether the Governments concerned would be willing to go further into debt to Canada to purchase goods here, unless such goods were regarded by them as essential, and could not be obtained on more favourable terms elsewhere.

In recommendation No. 8, the statement is made that Canadian chartered banks claim they are discouraged by the Canadian Government from financing exports which need extended terms of credit. I do not know of any basis for such a statement. No agency of the Canadian Government, so far as I am aware, has discouraged or would discourage such action by the Canadian chartered banks. Permission from the Foreign Exchange Control Board is of course, necessary, but in all bona fide cases such permission is readily granted.

CONTINUING BASIS

In this connection, I would point out that while Part II of the Export Credits Insurance Act has lapsed, the Export Credits Insurance Corporation was established by Part I on a continuing basis. The Corporation is prepared to assist in the financing of undertakings that require short-to-medium-term credit. Indeed, a number of important transactions have been arranged through the Corporation's facilities.

Recommendations Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are related, the intent of which appears to be best illustrated by my recent trip to the United Kingdom. You may have noted my address at the dinner at the Mansion House in London on the occasion of the opening of the British Industries Fair. I was gratified to see the full coverage that was given to my remarks in the British Press.

In recommendation No. 6, it is suggested that the volume of Canadian trade is adversely affected by the requirement that goods exported to the United States dollar area must be paid for in U.S. dollars or some other currency convertible into United States dollars. The recommendation is for a change in the regulation to permit the acceptance of Canadian dollars from buyers in any market. I find it difficult to see how the proposed change would result in any real benefit to Canadian exports, although it would undoubtedly have adverse effects. At present, non-residents who hold Canadian dollars which are not good payment for Canadian exports sell these dollars among themselves at a price which represents a dis-

count from the official rate. If the regulations were altered as your Association suggests, this unofficial value for Canadian dollars in the hands of non-residents would immediately rise to a point only fractionally below the official parity. The only result would be that a large volume of Canadian dollars in the hands of various foreign investors and other persons would be used to pay for Canadian exports. It does not appear that the volume of Canadian exports would materially increase, but instead of receiving foreign exchange for these exports, we would simply allow the liquidation of foreign capital in Canada.

With regard to recommendation No. 7, the Government has already stated that it is willing to make the arrangements suggested with those countries now in receipt of E.R.P. assistance. It is part of such arrangements that the Canadian dollars so received by the foreign country concerned cannot be sold on the unofficial market in New York but must be used for making payments to Canada. The result...

GEN. MCNAUGHTON HONOURED: General A. G. L. McNaughton, CH, CB, OMC, DSO, has accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel Commandant in the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on June 7. He has been Honorary Colonel of the Corps since March, 1946, but now vacates that appointment to accept the senior one.

COST-OF-LIVING UP: Showing a slight upward movement for the second successive month, Canada's official cost-of-living index rose one-fifth of a point between April 1 and May 2, from 159.3 to 159.5. The March-April increase was one-tenth of a point, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

At the May 2 level, the index was 6.2 points above May last year, and one-tenth of a point below the peak figure of 159.6 touched three times -- at the first of October and November last year and January this year. From August, 1939 to May, 1949, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 58.2 per cent.

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES: Three universities, Western Ontario in London, Queen's in Kingston and Laval in Quebec City, have just been granted more than \$20,000 from the federal health grants for special research and the development of new medical services in neuro-pathology and cancer control, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin said on June 2.

is that Canadian dollars spent by Canadian travellers in such countries may very well result in an increase of Canadian exports to those countries. It is obvious, however, that such arrangements could not be extended to the United States or any other country which was not willing to enter into the necessary reciprocal obligation to Canada.

In conclusion, I cannot agree that Canada is on the road to ruin. Our exports are holding up better than those of most other countries.

As far as raw materials are concerned, our 1949 production is fully committed, with only minor exceptions. Few countries are in that happy position. I think that none of us expected the immediate post-war markets abroad for manufactured goods to last indefinitely.

I am hopeful that the steps that we are taking to work out a better trade balance with countries that are our traditional customers will continue to improve our situation.

Meantime, Canada's export trade is at peak levels, both for dollar value and for volume, which is something to be thankful for.

IMPORT CONTROL CHANGES: The Emergency Import Control Division announced on June 5 that the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, has authorized some adjustments in the emergency import controls which will modify restrictions on the importation of a considerable number of items in which British exporters have a particular interest.

The commodities affected are minor items such as vases, jardinières, fountain pens and propelling pencils, some ornaments, costume jewellery, some paper products, desk sets, picture and photograph frames, electric irons and some other small household appliances. No one of these is a large item of trade.

All these items may be imported from non-scheduled countries on and after July 1, 1949 under open general permit. At the same time holders of existing quota under Category 4 (Miscellaneous) of Schedule II will be permitted to import these commodities from scheduled countries against their existing quotas. In other words importers holding quotas in Category 4 will have a wider range of goods for which their quotas may be used, but they will not have larger quotas and hence no increase in total dollar expenditure is involved.

In scheduled countries from which the above goods may be purchased by Category 4 quota holders within their existing quotas are Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama, El Salvador, Switzerland, Russia, Venezuela and the United States.

The non-scheduled countries in which the same goods can be purchased under open general permit are all other countries not listed above.

DIMENSIONAL UNITS: Substantial progress toward producing a single set of dimensional units for use along the world's airways was announced on June 9 by the International Civil Aviation Organization. So far, 34 of the Organization's 52 member nations have agreed to take the first step in a plan designed to relieve the confusion in air-ground radio communication caused by the differing systems of measurement now employed in various countries. ICAO officials point out that, although this problem of weights and measures and distances being expressed in different units is not peculiar to aviation, the danger of a mistake or misunderstanding due to a multiplicity of measuring units is probably more real and more important to the pilots and crews of aircraft in flight than to anyone else.

The ICAO standardization plan consists of an agreement on five tables of units incorporating elements of both the metric and the foot-pound-second systems. One table uses the English system, the second the English system plus the measurement of air pressure in millibars rather than inches of mercury. The third table replaces statute miles with nautical miles, the common distance unit used in air navigation along international routes. The fourth employs the metric system entirely, and the fifth - and eventually final table - is a combination of the third and fourth, using the metric system for all purposes except that nautical miles would be used for long distances and for speeds. All five tables use the centigrade scale for temperature measurements.

The dimensional standardization plan provides for the progressive reduction of the number of tables until all ICAO member nations will be using table five for air-ground communication. This final table - the ICAO Table of Units - has already been accepted by no fewer than 16 nations. The gradual change-over takes into account the practical difficulties in altering national dimensional practices, particularly when the alteration involves a change from a familiar system of units to one which has no connecting roots in a country's basic education, and is designed to ensure that each nation will be able to plan its dimensional usage with as little confusion as possible.

Prior to agreement on these five tables, at least 14 different systems of measurement units were in use within the territories of the Organization's Member States.

Member nations which have accepted the final ICAO table of units are: Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland.

Nations which have accepted one of the other four ICAO tables are: Australia, Burma, Bolivia, Brazil, Ceylon, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippine Republic, Siam, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom.

Nations which have notified ICAO that they are unable as yet to arrange for the uniform use, within their airline operations, of any one of the five internationally agreed tables are: Canada, Ethiopia, Iraq, United States.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in April totalled 68,979 as compared with 103,402 in March and 59,265 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. At the end of the month there were 134,500 ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register compared with 185,800 at the end of March and 105,400 at April 31, 1948.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES: Department store sales advanced seven per cent during the week ending May 28 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: Industrial employment in Canada showed the customary seasonal contraction in volume between March 1 and April 1, but at the latter date was at a higher level than for any previous year for which monthly statistics have been compiled, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The aggregate payrolls reported were also substantially above a year earlier, but slightly down from March 1 this year.

MCKEE TROPHY AWARD: The Minister of National Defence, will present the McKee Trans-Canada Trophy to Flying Officer R. B. West, DFC, AFC, of Medford, N.S., during the afternoon of Air Force Day at Rockcliffe, Saturday, June 11, it was announced by Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa. The award of the trophy to F/O West, for his contribution to Canadian aviation during 1948, was announced recently.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: Sales of new motor vehicles in April showed a further advance on the gain recorded in March, rising 46 per cent in number and 56 per cent in value over the corresponding month last year. Sales in March were up 18 per cent in number and 29 per cent in value over March last year. As in March, the gain was due mainly to larger sales of passenger cars.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 26 amounted to 95,630,000 bushels, down 4,149,000 from the preceding week's total, but 39,114,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

RAINS IMPROVE PRAIRIE CROP CONDITIONS

SOME DRY AREAS. Widespread rains over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces have considerably improved crop conditions in the West. The growing crops are now in quite good condition, except in fairly larger areas of central Alberta and south-central and south-western districts of Saskatchewan where rain is still urgently required. While the situation has improved remarkably in the last two weeks, sub-soil moisture reserves are still inadequate in many areas and much additional moisture will be required to bring the growing crops to maturity.

Cooler, wet weather during the past fortnight has retarded grasshopper infestation, although severe outbreaks are reported from some localities in central Saskatchewan. Grasshopper control campaigns are being carried on in the affected areas there and elsewhere, with good results generally reported. Recovery from frost damage has been good but some re-seeding of coarse grains was necessary in a few districts.

In Manitoba seeding is almost completed, although some delay has taken place due to heavy weed growth and the necessity for some re-seeding. In the area from Morden westward to the Saskatchewan boundary and north to Russell the heavy rains of a week ago further delayed late seedings but restored moisture reserves. Slight flood damage occurred in low spots. In the districts around Winnipeg and in the mid-lake area rains would now be welcomed, especially by market gardeners.

Crops in general are progressing satisfactorily in Manitoba with fall rye heading out. Early wheat is well stooled on a heavy stand, although there is considerable late crop. Some damage has been reported on light land due to soil drifting. Grasshoppers have been hatching on light soils but municipal spray rigs are operating in affected areas and little damage is indicated. Over 17,000 acres of sugar beets have been planted and thinning started this week. The potato and hay crops are promising.

As a result of the recent rains, general

crop prospects in Saskatchewan are greatly improved, except in south-central and south-western districts where moisture conditions are still unsatisfactory. Conditions in the eastern half of the province appear quite favourable with grain stands fair to excellent, wheat averaging five inches and coarse grains three to four inches in height. In other areas stands are slightly shorter. Most crops have recovered from the May frosts, although some permanent damage is reported from the west-central section of the province. Insect damage during the past week has generally been slight but serious grasshopper outbreaks have been reported in some localities in the central part of Saskatchewan. An extensive control campaign, utilizing poison baits and sprays, is proving effective in most areas. While considerable recovery has been made in general crop conditions, further progress of crops will be dependent on the receipt of timely rains, since sub-soil moisture reserves are still far from adequate.

Good rains were received over much of Alberta this past week. Seeding is now completed in most of the province and, weather permitting, very little will remain by the end of the week. Grain crops are generally fair to good with the important exception of a large moisture deficient area in the central part of the province. This dry belt is bounded roughly by a line running northward from Calgary to Wetaskiwin and thence north-east to the Vegreville-Vermilion area. The edge of the dry area then drops south-westward to the Hanna district and back to Calgary. Growth has been poor and germination uneven in this dry section, and rainfall is urgently needed.

Throughout Alberta the height of wheat varies from two to eight inches and coarse grains from one to six. Grasshopper damage has been light. Wheat crops are recovering from the effects of the May frost but some re-seeding of oats and barley has been necessary in north-eastern sections.

DR. CAMERON DELEGATION HEAD. Dr. G. D. W. Cameron, Deputy Minister of National Health, will head the Canadian delegation to the Second World Health Assembly which opens in Rome next Monday, June 13; it was announced June 9 in Ottawa by the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The world health program for 1950 to be discussed by the Assembly includes joint activity by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization in combating related problems of food and health; an expanded program of maternal and child health activities, including greater stress on im-

munization against childhood diseases; the first international program in the field of mental health; increased attention to typhus and plague; efforts to help member governments strengthen their public health services and operation of a limited medical-supply service to governments, as well as continuation of work in such fields as malaria, tuberculosis and venereal disease control.

In addition to the program for 1950, the Health Assembly will study administrative and financial problems, details of regional organization, membership applications and other matters directly or indirectly connected with the work of WHO.