



## CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 3 No. 17

March 5, 1948.

## INDEX TO INSIDE PAGES

Navy's Extensive Programme.....	2	Immigrants From Malta.....	6
Far North Housebuilding.....	2	Sub-Zero Northern Survey.....	6
Dental Service For Isolated Civilians.....	3	Canada At The United Nations:	
N.W.T. Sign Fitness Agreement.....	3	Little Assembly Decision On Korea	
Imports Requiring Permit.....	3	Reduction Of Armaments	
Steel Controller Appointed.....	3-4	Economic And Social Council	
Bank Of Canada On Interest Rates.....	4	Security Council	
Peace Treaty Provisions.....	4-5	Problem Of Palestine.....	7-12
New Bank Of Canada Director.....	5	Government And Polish Art Treasures.....	12-15
Dominion Cerealist Retires.....	5-6	Czechoslovak Minister Resigns.....	15

## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**IN PARLIAMENT:** On a vote of 173 to 38, the House of Commons last night voted down a C.C.F. motion of non-confidence. It was the first division in the debate on the Address which began in the Commons Dec. 8 and, with intervals for urgent business, has continued since.

The vote came on a C.C.F. sub-amendment to a Progressive-Conservative amendment. Progressive Conservatives had moved, in amendment to the Address, that "Your Excellency's advisers do not possess the confidence of the Canadian people".

The C.C.F. sub-amendment read:

This House regrets that your Excellency's advisers have failed to use the powers provided by Parliament to control prices, and by their actions have caused alarming increases in the cost of living and a dangerous lowering of the living standards of the Canadian people.

In the division, Progressive-Conservatives voted with Government members against the C.C.F. sub-amendment.

F.D. Shaw (S.M.C. Red Deer) then moved a Social Credit sub-amendment advocating:

(a) Exemption from income tax on incomes of married persons of \$2,400 and less, and of single persons of \$1,500; these to be progressively increased to \$3,000 and \$2,000 as production increases in relation to demand.

(b) Elimination of the sales tax, and substantial reduction in excise, processing

and all other hidden and nuisance taxes.

(c) Substantial increases in family allowances; increases in old age pensions, together with elimination of the means test and a reduction in the pensionable age.

(d) Adequate provision for all disabled adults.

(e) Selective subsidies, especially on food products and necessities of living.

Debate continues.

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS:** In the Security Council, Gen. McNaughton (Canada) made an urgent plea for conciliation in Palestine.

The Security Council also adopted a Canadian resolution on Indonesia (P. 7-12).

Discussion of Palestine continues before the Security Council today.

**COST-OF-LIVING INDEX UP:** The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, rose from 148.3 on January 2 to 150.1 on February 2, 1948. The increase in this series between February 1947 and February this year amounted to 22.3 points. From August, 1939 to February 2, 1948, the increase in the Dominion cost-of-living index was 48.9 per cent.

The increase over January 2 was equal to the average monthly advance recorded during the preceding 12 months, but slightly less than gains recorded in each of the past two months.

## NAVY'S EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME

**TWELVE OPERATIONAL UNITS:** In the most extensive training programme in its peacetime history, providing sea experience for a Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) which now numbers more than 3,000, and making it possible for permanent service men to obtain advancement in their specialized branches, the R.C.N. will maintain twelve operational units during the forthcoming spring and summer, announces the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton. The primary duty of nine of these, including that of the cruiser "Ontario", will be the all-essential training programme. To make it possible two ships the frigate "Swansea" and the Algerine escort vessel "Portage", will be recommissioned.

Several of the ships concerned are already at sea for spring exercises, some of them being scheduled to join forces for a period with the Royal Navy's America and West Indies squadron for fleet exercises. A West Coast group, consisting of the cruiser "Ontario", the destroyer "Crescent" and the frigate "Antigonish" is moving down the Pacific coast, the first two having a rendezvous in the Caribbean in March with other Canadian and British ships. They will return to Esquimalt early in May to begin immediately extensive training cruises for Reserves and R.C.N. new entries. A class of R.C.N. cadets, at present with the squadron, will return to Esquimalt in "Antigonish" on March 3rd. The frigate, already a veteran of two years of training cruises, will continue that programme after reaching her home port.

### NEW TRIBAL DESTROYER

The brand new Tribal class destroyer "Cayuga", her crew already heavily augmented by Reserves, sailed from Halifax, where she was built, on February 4th. Reaching her new home port of Esquimalt in mid-March, she will "shake down" in preparation for training duties beginning a month later.

Largest and newest of all the Canadian warships, the aircraft carrier "Magnificent" will concentrate all summer on perfecting her intricate and highly specialized organization. Commissioning in Belfast, Ireland, sometime in April, she is expected to reach Halifax towards the end of May. A leave period and the establishment of her shore organization will bring her to mid-July, when she will put to sea for deck landing training of the two squadrons making up the 19th Carrier Air Group. The two other naval craft in commission but not participating in the summer's general training programme will be the frigate "St. Stephen" engaged on the Atlantic Weather Patrol, and the Algerine escort vessel "New Liskeard", which will be assigned to special duties after participating in the spring exercises.

Commissioned only last month after her completion in Halifax, the final addition to

the Canadian-built Tribal destroyers, "Athabaskan", is due to follow "Cayuga" around to Esquimalt in the spring and will be engaged in regular reserve training cruises by summer. "Nootka", second of the Canadian Tribals, will sail south from Halifax to participate in the Caribbean fleet exercises and will return in time to commence Reserve training cruises by May 1. "Haida", also of the same class, and a famous fighting ship of the past war, will engage in a shakedown voyage early in April before assuming R.C.N. and R.C.N. (R) training duties on the 16th of that month.

A frigate with an outstanding record in anti-submarine warfare, the "Swansea", will come back into circulation in Halifax for the first time since being paid off in November 1945. She will be recommissioned specifically for training and will assume those duties on April 1. The Algerine "Portage", already an old hand in the business, will commence cruises with Reserves at the same time, following the track pioneered by her sister ship, "Wallaceburg" two years ago into the Great Lakes.

## FAR NORTH HOUSEBUILDING

**PILES IN THE PERMAFROST:** Of interest to adventurous souls who plan to settle in the great undeveloped northland is a handy hint on house-building to be found in an article on northern building in the latest issue of the Canadian Army Journal. It seems that homes built on stilts will soon be all the rage.

It's a question of permafrost, the layer of year-round frozen ground just below the surface. The old method was to scrape away the top covering until a firm base was reached, and then start to build. But the catch here is that the firm base -- frozen soil -- becomes a sea of mud when heat from the building gets through the floor. Snake-like buildings at Whitehorse and other northern towns show up this difficulty all too clearly.

So "floating" houses were tried, which means putting up the building without disturbing the natural covering of the ground, and in some cases adding extra insulation to the floor. This works fairly well but is not suited to heavy buildings which need a real foundation.

According to the Army, here's the way to do it: Sink piles right down into the non-active layer of permafrost -- that layer which never melts -- and roughen them to prevent slipping. The upper part of the pile should be wrapped with greased or tar paper to allow the active layer of permafrost to slide up and down as it thaws or freezes. Leave an air insulation space between the floor and the ground and you're all set to build your northern dreamhouse.

Permafrost covers about 20 per cent of the earth's land mass and is found where exterior cold overcomes the earth's interior heat. That means where the annual average temperature is below freezing point.

## DENTAL SERVICE FOR ISOLATED CIVILIANS:

Civilians in the far north and other isolated parts of Canada where ordinary civilian dental service is not available, may now receive treatment from available dental officers of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps at a set scale of fees.

There are three restrictions:

- (a) in an emergency, that is for the relief of pain or for the repair of broken dentures where civilian dental facilities are not available;
- (b) in isolated areas where no civilian dental facilities exist, or
- (c) at the request of an approved civilian dental authority where it is considered necessary to supplement civilian services.

**N.W.T. SIGN FITNESS AGREEMENT:** The Northwest Territories and the federal government have completed an agreement under the National Physical Fitness Act for the promotion of fitness and recreation in the settlements "north of sixty".

Recently New Brunswick entered into an agreement under the Act, bringing to seven the number of provinces promoting fitness and recreational programmes with federal financial aid.

Under the agreement, signed on behalf of the Northwest Territories Council by the commissioner, H.L. Keenleyside, the Territories agree to co-operate with the National Council on Physical Fitness by developing and promoting fitness and recreational programmes among the residents of the Territories. The Agreement is effective for five years.

**C.O., R.C.A.F. STATION, WINNIPEG:** Air Force Headquarters announce appointment of W/C J.P. McCarthy, DFC, Toronto, as Commanding Officer of R.C.A.F. Station, Winnipeg. For the last year W/C McCarthy has been Chief Instructor of the Junior Officer's School of Administration, Toronto.

W/C McCarthy joined the RCAF in July, 1940, went overseas in 1941, and completed a tour of operations as a bomber pilot attached to the RAF. For gallantry in operations against the enemy he was awarded the DFC in 1942. In 1943 he served as flight commander with 420 (RCAF) Bomber Squadron, after which he assumed command of 424 (RCAF) Squadron in North Africa. Upon completion of his second tour of operations he returned to England as Senior Operation Controller for 6 (Bomber) Group Headquarters. W/C McCarthy attended the RAF Staff College and upon graduation returned to Canada to become a member of the Directing Staff of the RCAF Staff College, in Toronto.

(C.W.B. March 5, 1948)

## IMPORTS REQUIRING PERMIT

**ITEMS UNDER CONTROL:** The Minister of Finance, acting on the advice of the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, announces that individual import permits are now required for the importation of the goods, equipment and materials listed below, unless they were shipped and were in continuous and uninterrupted transit to Canada on or before February 29, 1948:--

Tariff item No. 393 -- Tires, of steel, in the rough, not drilled or machined in any manner, for railway vehicles, including locomotives and tenders.

Tariff item No. 427e -- automatic machines for making and packaging cigars and cigarettes, not to include tobacco-preparing machines.

Tariff item No. 434 -- locomotives for use on railways, and chassis, tops, wheels and bodies for the same, n.o.p.

Tariff item No. 434b -- steel wheels for use on railway rolling stock, viz; (1) pressed steel, (11) n.o.p.

Tariff item No. ex 446 -- electric steam turbo generator sets, 700 h.p. and greater, of a class or kind not made in Canada; complete parts thereof for production use.

Tariff item No. 461 -- safes, including doors; doors and door frames for vaults; scales, balances, weighing beams and strength-testing machines of all kinds, n.o.p.

Application forms, known as Form CG 101, for import permits may be obtained from Collectors of Customs in the larger centres in Canada. Forms may also be obtained from the Capital Goods Import Control Branch, Department of Reconstruction and Supply, Ottawa, with which Branch all completed applications should be filed.

The bringing of these items under control represents a further step in the programme to conserve foreign exchange and will be followed by similar announcements from time to time.

**STEEL CONTROLLER APPOINTED:** W.E. Uren has relinquished his duties as Steel Controller and Priorities Officer in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply. Mr. Uren will retain his duties as Chairman of the Dominion Coal Board, and as Co-ordinator of Controls. F.K. Ashbaugh has taken over the position of Steel Controller, while C.F. Magurn has been appointed Priorities Officer.

Born in Windsor, Ont., F.K. Ashbaugh is president of the Lake Erie Tobacco Co. Ltd., Tillsonburg, Ont. During the war, he served in Ottawa as a member of the Secretariat of the Wartime Industries Control Board, and in 1944 transferred to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, where he held the position of Co-ordinator of Capital Equipment and Durable Goods, resigning in 1946 to return to his company.

Formerly deputy Priorities Officer in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, C.F.

Magurn was born in Ottawa, and prior to joining the department in 1940, he was employed by the Anglo Canadian Pulp and Paper Mills, Quebec City.

**BANK OF CANADA ON INTEREST RATES:** Changes in market prices for Canadian Government bonds during the past few months have brought the yield on the longest-dated issues to slightly less than 3% per annum, the rate of interest at which Canadian Government bonds were issued during the war years.

Interest rates on other high-grade securities have also risen, and to a somewhat greater degree. This has occurred during a period of very large capital investment and a correspondingly large demand for money which has been borrowed in this connection. The degree of the change in interest rates does not appear inappropriate in the circumstances.

On the other hand, the Bank of Canada does not regard the increase in rates of interest which has taken place as one of the most important factors in combatting a general rise in price levels. The Bank (it says in a Press statement) is not in favour of a drastic increase in interest rates which would be likely to create a situation that might hamper, and might even prevent, essential forms of capital investment which Canada needs and which it is desirable should be proceeded with.

**PEACE TREATY PROVISIONS**

**DECISIONS OF PRIZE COURTS:** The Department of External Affairs announces that under provisions of treaties of peace signed with three countries -- Italy, Roumania and Finland -- Canada has the right to re-examine the decisions of all their prize courts held during the Second World War.

In the event Canada finds that the decisions of these courts were not in conformity with international law, the Governments concerned are required to set the decisions aside and revise them according to the wishes of the Canadian Government. All three treaties of peace in this matter are substantially the same.

At the same time, the Department announced that provisions are contained in the treaties of peace with Italy, Roumania, Hungary and Finland for the revision of judgments by public courts. The Governments of these four countries are obliged to enable the nationals of the United Nations to submit for review any judgment where the national has been unable adequately to present his case, either as plaintiff or defendant.

This obligation is imposed on the Government concerned during the period of one year, commencing from the date of the coming into force of the treaties of peace concerned. With respect to Italy, this period expires Sept. 15,

1948, and with respect to Roumania, Hungary and Finland, the period expires Sept. 19, 1948.

The reference in each treaty of peace in connection with prize courts is as follows: Annex XVII A of the treaty of peace with Italy and Annex VI A of the treaties of peace with Roumania and Finland.

The reference in each treaty of peace with respect to the public court judgments is as follows:

- Annex XVII B of the treaty of peace with Italy
  - Annex VI of the treaty of peace with Hungary, and
  - Annex VI B of each of the treaties of peace with Roumania and Finland.
- Annex XVII of the treaty of peace with Italy on the subject of Prize Courts and Judgments reads:

**A. PRIZE COURTS**

Each of the Allied and Associated Powers reserves the right to examine, according to a procedure to be established by it, all decisions and orders of the Italian Prize Courts in cases involving ownership rights of its nationals, and to recommend to the Italian Government that revision shall be undertaken of such of those decisions or orders as may not be in conformity with international law.

The Italian Government undertakes to supply copies of all documents comprising the records of these cases, including the decisions taken and orders issued, and to accept all recommendations made as a result of the examination of the said cases, and to give effect to such recommendations.

**B. JUDGMENTS**

The Italian Government shall take the necessary measures to enable nationals of any of the United Nations at any time within one year from the coming into force of the present Treaty to submit to the appropriate Italian authorities for review any judgment given by an Italian court between June 10, 1940, and the coming into force of the present Treaty in any proceeding in which the United Nations national was unable to make adequate presentation of his case either as plaintiff or defendant. The Italian Government shall provide that, where the United Nations national has suffered injury by reason of any such judgment, he shall be restored in the position in which he was before the judgment was given or shall be afforded such relief as may be just and equitable in the circumstances. The term "United Nations nationals" includes corporations or associations organized or constituted under the laws of any of the United Nations.

It is suggested that any persons or corporations desiring more complete information on the texts of these four peace treaties, should write to the King's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, for copies of these treat-

ties. References are as follows:

- The Treaty of Peace with Italy, Canada Treaty Series, 1947, No. 4.
- The Treaty of Peace with Roumania, Canada Treaty Series, 1947, No. 6.
- The Treaty of Peace with Hungary, Canada Treaty Series, 1947, No. 5.
- The Treaty of Peace with Finland, Canada Treaty Series, 1947, No. 7.

**AUSTRIA, GREECE EXPRESS THANKS:** The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, announces receipt of messages from Greece and Austria expressing thanks for post-UNRRA relief shipments from Canada.

The messages of thanks from Greece were transmitted to the Secretary of State for External Affairs by the Greek Ambassador in Canada, Mr. Constantine Sakellaropoulo. One was addressed to the Prime Minister by the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Constantine Tsaldaris.

It read as follows:

"Upon the arrival of the first shipment of commodities sent to Greece by the Canadian Government, I beg you, on behalf of the Greek people, to accept their warmest thanks and the assurance of their most friendly feelings toward the Canadian people."

The other communication was from the Minister of Supplies in the Greek Government, Mr. Phocion Zaimis, and was addressed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

It read as follows:

"The arrival of the first shipment of commodities sent by Canada to the Greek people offers me the occasion to renew their profound gratitude toward your nation. This new testimony of the Canadian solicitude, recalling our common struggle, was received in Greece with deep emotion."

Replying to the Greek Ambassador, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, wrote:

"These messages have been forwarded as you have requested and I have been asked if you would convey to your Prime Minister and your Minister of Supplies the appreciation of the Canadian Prime Minister and the Minister of Trade and Commerce for the kind messages which they have sent."

The Federal Chancellor of Austria, Dr. Leopold Figl, expressed the Austrian people's gratitude in a telegram to the Prime Minister on the occasion of receipt of the first instalment of Canadian post-UNRRA relief. Dr. Figl's telegram read as follows:

"Colonel James Manion, (Commercial Secretary in Italy, supervising relief supplies to Austria) remitted to me first instalment of Canadian relief. I profit of this occasion to transmit to you the warmest thanks of the Federal Government and the expression of the Austrian people's gratitude for this noble act from the side of Canada."

The Prime Minister's reply read as follows:

"I desire to express my appreciation of your telegram of February 19. My colleagues and I were pleased to learn that the first instalment of relief supplies from Canada had reached Austria and have now been transmitted to you. These supplies are a token of the earnest hope shared by all the people of Canada for Austrian recovery and for the well-being of the people of Austria."

The Canadian Government has allocated \$3,000,000 in post-UNRRA relief for Austria and \$4,000,000 for Greece. Both countries have also been provided with additional funds for the purchase of fish.

**NEW BANK OF CANADA DIRECTOR:** Norman A. Hesler, Sackville, N.B., has been appointed a Director of the Bank of Canada to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Fred Magee of Port Elgin, N.B.

Mr. Hesler is President and Managing Director of Enamel and Heating Products Limited, Sackville, N.B., President of Amherst Stove and Furnace Company Limited, Amherst, N.S., and Director of the Eastern Electric and Development Company. He is First Vice-President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and Chairman of the Board of Regents of Mount Allison University. He has served as Mayor of the Town of Sackville, as Vice President of the Maritime Board of Trade, and in a great many other local and Maritime community and business organizations and activities. During the war he gave valuable assistance to the Department of Munitions and Supply and in connection with Victory Loan work.

**DOMINION CEREALIST RETIRES:** Dr. L.H. Newman has retired on superannuation from the post of Dominion Cerealist.

Dr. Newman was appointed to succeed the late Dr. Charles Saunders as Dominion Cerealist in 1923.

Under Dr. Newman's direction, new varieties of wheat were evolved, notably Renown, Regent and Saunders rust resistant hard red spring varieties for Western Canada. Coronation and Cascade, also rust resistant spring wheats, were developed for production in Eastern Canada; Vanguard and Beaver oats, rust resistant varieties, which in many districts of Canada have proved a veritable godsend to farmers; Garnet and Reward wheats, the development of which were started by his predecessor but were completed by him. Dr. Newman's most notable contributions have been in connection with evolving rust resistant wheats and oats, since stem and leaf rust following the more intensive settlement of Canada have caused incalculable losses in the past 40 years.

Just when Newman and his co-workers and co-operators thought they had stem rust beaten, the wheat stem sawfly was fast infesting a

considerable section of Western Canada at a cost of millions to wheat growers. In co-operation with the staff of the Dominion Experimental Station at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, the Entomologists and Plant Pathologists of the Science Service of the Department, the breeding of varieties that would resist the insect was begun. Of more than 100 varieties under test, one now registered under the name of Rescue, has shown the best resistance so far to sawfly attacks.

**IMMIGRANTS FROM MALTA:** Arrangements have been made by the Canadian Minister of Mines and Resources Mr. Glen, with the Minister of Emigration in Malta, Mr. Cole, for the admission to Canada of 500 immigrants as construction workers from that island. The movement will take place this spring and the Maltese authorities will make all transportation arrangements.

Canadian officials will proceed to Malta to make the selection of immigrants and conduct the necessary immigration, civil and medical examinations. On arrival in Canada, the immigrants will be placed in employment by the Department of Labour.

**INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Secretary of State announce that Canada will take part in an International Conference at Brussels in June to consider a revision of the Berne-Berlin-Rome Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, commonly known as the Copyright Convention. Victor Dore, Canadian Ambassador to Belgium, will be Head of the Delegation and will be assisted by W.P.J. O'Meara, K.C., Assistant Under-Secretary of State, as Alternate Delegate and by D.V.C. MacDonald, K.C., Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University, as Technical Adviser.

Mr. Victor Dore through his work in UNESCO has been concerned with the general problem of copyrights. Mr. O'Meara has represented the Patents and Copyrights Office in litigation before the courts and Dean MacDonald, an authority on copyright, has assisted the Canadian Copyright Appeal Board in an advisory capacity.

The International Law of Copyright dates from the original Berne Convention of 1886 and has been revised at later conferences held at Paris in 1896, at Berlin in 1908, and at Rome in 1928. The Convention guarantees to authors of all works in the literary, scientific and artistic domain first published in a Copyright Union country, the enjoyment in the other countries of the rights which the Copyright Laws of those countries grant to their citizens. The enjoyment of these rights is not subject to any formality, such as registration, and the rights include royalties from translations.

The Conference to be held in Brussels in June will have to consider, among other things, weaknesses and ambiguities in the present Convention. Many problems have arisen as a result of changes in the techniques of reproducing literary and artistic works and in connection with the difficult question of tariffs relating to public performing rights.

**1947 TOBACCO CROP LOWER:** Canada's 1947 tobacco crop was valued at \$41,709,000, according to the first estimate released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Producers expect to receive \$7,763,000 less this season than last when the crop was valued at \$49,472,000. While the acreage harvested in 1947 was 13 per cent greater than in the preceding year, average yields were off sharply at 928 pounds per acre compared with 1,281. The value of the crop, by provinces, with comparable date for 1946 in brackets, was: Quebec, \$2,646,000 (\$3,383,000); Ontario, \$39,029,000 (\$46,034,000); British Columbia, \$34,000 (\$55,000).

**SUB-ZERO NORTHERN SURVEY:** In preparation for the final lap of a 360-mile survey begun last year, a party of Royal Canadian Engineers is now assembling and outfitting at Churchill, Man., Army Headquarters announce.

The party is under command of Major J.I. Thompson, of Ottawa, and consists of eight soldiers and two civilians. Equipped with a dog team and a caterpillar tractor to draw the sleds, they will leave Churchill early this month and proceed along and coast over the sea ice to the mouth of the Seal River. The group will then proceed up the Seal for 20 or 30 miles before striking out due south for 60 miles. The final leg of 40 miles will be completed when they reach the Hudson Bay Railway.

Although well over 1000 air photos of the area to be mapped were taken by the RCAF last summer, the Engineers must cover every inch of a route surrounding this territory with transit and tape traverse in order to produce accurate maps. As this country, consisting of muskeg and innumerable streams and lakes, is virtually impassable in the summer, the work must be carried out in sub-zero weather and completed before the spring break-up in May.

The caterpillar tractor used by the expedition will draw two heavy sleds, one carrying a "caboose" or living quarters, and the other, supplies. The civilian trapper included in the party, with his sledge and dog team, will reconnoitre a passable route and will be available in case of emergency for a trip back to Churchill.

**V.C. PHELAN HEADS I.L.O. COMMITTEE:** V.C. Phelan, of the Department of Labour, has been unanimously elected Chairman for the current session in Geneva, Switzerland, of the Per-

manent Migration Committee of the International Labour Organization, Mr. Mitchell, Minister of Labour, announces. Thirty-five countries are members of this Committee.

Among the subjects dealt with at this meeting of the Committee are: a proposed revision of the Migration for Employment Convention, 1939; a draft model migration agreement; the technical selection and trend of migrants; and

the co-operation of the I.L.O. in measures for the co-ordination of international responsibilities in the field of migration.

For most of the past year, Mr. Phelan has been in Europe as a representative of the Department of Labour, assisting in the selection of Displaced Persons for immigration to Canada.

## CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

**LITTLE ASSEMBLY DECISION ON KOREA:** The Interim Committee of the General Assembly (Little Assembly) concluded its consideration of the Korean question February 26 by approving a summary of the majority views which will be forwarded to the Korean commission along with the United States resolution.

This summary, prepared by the United States, came under three main heads:-

- (1) The elections must be free and all democratic rights recognized and respected. The Little Assembly noted that the United States had given its assurances of unhindered elections.
- (2) The National Assembly of Korea would be a stage in the formation of a government whose final shape would be determined by the Koreans. And the Koreans of the south would be free to consult--if they could--with the Koreans of the north in an effort to get them into the government. These consultations would be with the blessings of the Little Assembly.
- (3) The Little Assembly recognized that the Korean Commission itself had the authority and discretion to carry out its duties as far as it was able.

Dr. Luis Padilla Nervo (Mexico) chairman, summarizing the work done, said the committee had good reason to be satisfied. Dr. Padilla Nervo called attention to the U.S. pledge that an atmosphere of freedom would be assured for the elections.

As for the view that these elections might tend to perpetuate the division between north and south Korea, Dr. Padilla Nervo said that formation of a nuclear, independent government in South Korea should encourage consultations and cooperation toward national independence and unity. Seats would be left open in the National Assembly for representative of Northern Korea.

### PROVISION OF U.S. RESOLUTION

Main clauses of the United States resolution on Korea, adopted by the Little Assembly by 31 to two (Canada and Australia) with eleven abstentions (C.W.B. February 27, P.1), read:

The Interim Committee --

Bearing in mind the views expressed by the chairman of the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea;

Deeming it necessary that the programme set forth in the General Assembly resolutions of 14 November 1947 be carried out and as a necessary step therein that the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea proceed with the observance of elections in all Korea, and if that is impossible, in as much of Korea as is accessible to it; and

Considering it important that the elections be held to choose representatives of the Korean people with whom the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea may consult regarding the prompt attainment of freedom and independence of the Korean people, which representatives, constituting a National Assembly, may establish a national government of Korea;

### RESOLVES

That in its view it is incumbent upon the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, under the terms of the General Assembly resolution of 14 November 1947, and in the light of developments in the situation with respect to Korea since that date, to implement the programme as outlined in Resolution II, in such parts of Korea as are accessible to the commission.

Subsequent to the Little Assembly meeting, the Australian delegation announced that it would continue to cooperate.

"The Australian representative (on the commission) will endeavour to ensure that the elections are in fact the free expression of the will of the people of South Korea," the delegation said.

**ELECTION DATE IN S. KOREA:** Lieut-Gen. John R. Hodge, commander of the U.S. forces in Korea announced in Seoul, March 1, (reports the U.N. Press Service) that elections will be held in South Korea May 9 next.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:** The Interim Committee of the General Assembly (Little Assembly) has under consideration proposals for implementation of articles 11 (1) and 13 (1a) of the U.N. Charter, which deal with the promotion of international cooperation in the political field and in the maintenance of peace.

Two proposals are before the Committee: 1. A proposal by Lebanon for the creation of a permanent committee of conciliation

and an amendment to this proposal by the Dominican Republic.

- 2. A Belgian proposal to study the possibility of transferring to the U.N. the functions conferred upon the League of Nations by the General Act for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes of September 26, 1928.

A joint resolution by China and the United States for establishment of a sub-committee to study these proposals was adopted by the Interim Committee unanimously.

### REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS

**UNITED KINGDOM PROPOSALS:** Meeting March 1 for the first time since 21 January, the working committee of the Commission for Conventional armaments received a revised draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom on the general principles for the formulation of practical proposals for a system of regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces.

This resolution was drafted in agreement with the Australian delegation which had submitted a similar resolution, now withdrawn.

Richard Miles of the United Kingdom introduced the revised draft resolution which reads as follows:

#### GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

"The working committee recommends that the following principles should govern the formulation of practical proposals for the establishment of a system for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces:

- 1. A system for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces should provide for the adherence of all states. Initially it must include at least all states having substantial military resources.
- 2. A system of regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces can only be put into effect in an atmosphere of international confidence. Measures for the regulation and reduction of armaments which would follow the establishment of the necessary degree of confidence might in turn be expected to increase confidence and so justify further measures of regulation and reduction.

#### SYSTEM OF AGREEMENTS

- 3. The establishment of an adequate system of agreements under article 43 of the Charter is an essential condition of full international confidence. Other examples of such conditions are:
  - (a) The establishment of the international control of atomic energy. It is a basic assumption of the work of the Commission for conventional armaments that the Atomic Energy Commission will, as part of a general plan for

the control of atomic energy, make specific proposals for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons;

- (b) The conclusion of peace settlements with Germany and Japan. Conditions of international peace and security will not be fully established until measures have been agreed upon which will prevent these states from undertaking aggressive action in the future.
- 4. A system for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces, in order to make possible the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources pursuant to article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, must limit armaments and armed forces to those which are consistent with and indispensable to the maintenance of international peace and security.

#### MUST INCLUDE SAFEGUARDS

- 5. A system for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces must include an adequate system of safeguards, which by including an agreed system of international supervision will ensure the observance of the provisions of the treaty or convention by all parties thereto. A system of safeguards cannot be adequate unless it possesses the following characteristics:
  - (a) It is technically feasible and practical;
  - (b) It is capable of detecting promptly the occurrence of violations;
  - (c) It causes the minimum interference with, and imposes the minimum burdens on, the economic and industrial life of individual nations.
- 6. Provision must be made for effective enforcement action in the event of violations."

Andrei A. Gromyko (USSR) subjected the new United Kingdom proposal to detailed criticism paragraph by paragraph.

The committee meets again Monday next.

**MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE:** During February, the Military Staff Committee discussed the report of the sub-committee on the over-all strength and composition of the armed forces to be made available to the U.N. Security Council. Discussion of that report is to be continued. Chairmanship of the Military Staff Committee passed from Lieut.-Gen. A. Ph. Vasiliev of the USSR delegation to Air Chief Marshal Sir Guy Garrod of the U.K. delegation, on March 1.

(The Military Staff Committee, which reports to the Security Council, is composed of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. It advises and assists the Council on all

questions relating to the Council's military requirements for maintaining international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, regulation of armaments and possible disarmament.)

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

**PLANS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT:** By 16 votes to none with one abstention, the Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council, March 1, adopted, with amendments a resolution on employment from the U.N. Conference on Trade and Employment at Havana. The resolution, as amended, requests the Secretary General:

- 1. to arrange with members of the United Nations and, where appropriate, with non-members for the submission of information concerning action they are now taking to achieve or maintain full employment and economic stability and concerning any publicly available plans to prevent a future decline;
- 2. to arrange with appropriate specialized agencies for reports on plans which have been prepared and whether resources will be available to assist members of the agencies to prevent a decline and
- 3. to submit an analytical report to the Council incorporating information received from these sources.

**FOOD SHORTAGES:** By 14 votes to none, with three abstentions, the Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council adopted, March 1, a resolution recommending member states to give serious consideration to the continuing world food shortage and take measures individually and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization and, where appropriate, with other international agencies and organizations of which they are members, to contribute to the solution of the problem.

The resolution also request the FAO, in consultation with other U.N. organs concerned, to study suitable measures to bring about increased food production by the elimination of supply shortages affecting production and to report to the seventh session of the Council.

**CO-ORDINATION DISCUSSED:** The Economic and Social Council's Committee on co-ordination of activities of the United Nations and specialized agencies in the Social and Economic fields has completed discussion of the United States resolution on co-ordination.

This resolution recommends that the Council approve:

- 1. The suggestion that the co-ordination committee have three meetings a year, including one which will consider the exports of the specialized agencies before the summer session of the Council;
- 2. The plan of the co-ordination committee to meet jointly with the advisory committee on administrative and budgetary

questions, if agreeable to that committee; and

- 3. the steps taken to achieve the integration of standing consultative committees.

The United States resolution also suggests that the Council request the Secretary-General's committee on co-ordination to consider the Council's resolution on the nature of the report to be submitted by the specialized agencies and to communicate its views on this matter to the Council. The Secretary-General's co-ordinating committee will also make recommendations to the Council on overlapping or duplication of activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

S. Pollock (Canada) is Chairman of the committee.

**PROTECTION OF MINORITIES:** The U.N. Economic and Social Council, March 1 adopted a resolution on the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities. This resolution asks the Secretary-General to organize studies to determine main types of discrimination. It also suggests to UNESCO that it consider the desirability of initiating and recommending the general adoption of a programme for dissemination of scientific facts designed to remove what is commonly known as racial prejudice.

### SECURITY COUNCIL

**RESOLUTIONS ON INDONESIA:** After a five-hour meeting, the Security Council, February 28, adopted two resolutions on Indonesia.

The first was a Chinese proposal to request the Committee of Good Offices to pay particular attention to the political developments in Western Java and Madura and report thereon to the Council at frequent intervals. This resolution was adopted by 8 votes to none with three abstentions (Argentina, Ukraine, USSR).

The second was a resolution submitted by Canada on the report of the Committee of Good Offices. This was adopted 7 votes to none with four abstentions.

The vote:

For: United Kingdom, United States, Belgium, Argentina, Canada, China, France.

Against: None.

Abstentions: USSR, Colombia, Syria, Ukraine.

#### CANADIAN PROPOSAL

Text of the Canadian resolution:

The Security Council:

Having considered the report of the Committee of Good Offices, informing the Council of the steps taken by the Netherlands Government and the Republic of Indonesia to comply with the Council's resolution of August 1st, 1947;

Notes with satisfaction the signing of the Truce Agreement by both parties and the acceptance by both parties of certain principles as an agreed basis for the conclusion

of a political settlement in Indonesia;

Commends the members of the Committee of Good Offices for the assistance they have given the two parties in their endeavours to settle their dispute by peaceful means, and endorses their offer of continued good offices in the working out of a political settlement;

Maintains its offer of good offices contained in the Resolution of August 25th, 1947, and, to this end,

Requests both parties and the Committee of Good Offices to keep the Council directly informed about the progress of the political settlement in Indonesia.

### PROBLEM OF PALESTINE

**CANADA URGES CONCILIATION:** Gen. McNaughton, Canadian representative, made an urgent plea for conciliation when the Palestine question again came before the Security Council, March 3.

"Even at this late hour, Gen. McNaughton pressed, conciliation in our view must be tried for surely the realization must be growing upon both communities in Palestine that the present course of violence and inflexible resistance against one another can only bring chaos and mutual destruction."

The position taken by Canada, Gen. McNaughton added, was not to be interpreted as in any way repudiating or abandoning the recommendations of the General Assembly on partition with economic union. That was a matter, on which the Council should not, in the opinion of the Canadian delegation, take a decision until the Committee of the five permanent members had a further opportunity to investigate, consult and report.

#### AMENDMENT TO U.S. RESOLUTION

Gen. McNaughton gave his support to a Belgian amendment to the resolution on Palestine previously submitted by the United States.

The U.S. resolution, which was submitted to the Security Council February 25, proposed that a committee of the Big Five (U.S., Russia, U.K., France and China) should consider whether the situation in Palestine constitutes a threat to international peace and to report its conclusions "as a matter of urgency" with any recommendations for action it considers appropriate.

The first operative paragraph of the United States draft resolution reads:

The Security Council Resolves:

1. To accept, subject to the authority of the Security Council under the Charter, the requests addressed by the General Assembly to it in paragraphs (a) (b) and (c) of the General Assembly resolution of 29 November, 1947.

(The indicated requests of the General Assembly resolution are:

- (a) Request of the Assembly for the Security

Council to take necessary measures as provided in the Palestine partition plan for its implementation;

- (b) Consideration by the Security Council of the question whether the situation in Palestine in the transitional period constitutes a threat to peace and
- (c) Determination by the Security Council as threat to peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression under Article 39 of the Charter of any attempt to alter by force the settlement envisaged by the Assembly resolution).

The remaining paragraphs of the United States resolution provide for appointment of the Big Five Committee.

#### EFFECT OF BELGIAN AMENDMENT

The Belgian amendment would delete paragraph 1 from the United States resolution, containing the acceptance by the Security Council of the requests addressed to it in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c). Provision for appointment of a Big Five Committee would remain.

Warren B. Austin (United States) opposing the Belgian amendment, said a vote for the first paragraph of the U.S. resolution would be a vote for partition as a Palestine solution. "The USA voted for that solution and still supports it, Mr. Austin said. The United States supports the General Assembly plan for partition as the framework of implementation by pacific means".

Taken altogether, Mr. Austin said, paragraph 1 of the U.S. resolution meant "that the Security Council will do everything it can under the Charter to give effect to the recommendation of the General Assembly".

#### BRITISH ATTITUDE UNCHANGED

Arthur Creech-Jones (United Kingdom) told the Council that the "date of the termination of our responsibility is irrevocably fixed" and the United Kingdom could not participate in any committee such as the one envisaged by the U.S. resolution, but would assist with all necessary information.

Andrei Gromyki (USSR) while agreeing to paragraph 1 to the U.S. resolution opposed the U.S. proposal for a Council committee of the Big Five. "In our opinion," said Mr. Gromyko, "the Five Powers should consult among themselves directly, outside of any committee, insofar as permanent members of the Security Council have as yet shown any initiative in the matter, the Security Council could appeal to them, or request them, to begin immediately with such consultation and to inform the Council of the results within 10-15 days".

#### GEN. McNAUGHTON TEXT

General McNaughton said: At this stage in the discussion of the Palestine question it is not necessary for me, Mr. President, to emphasize the seriousness of the situation which has been drawn to the attention of the Council by the two reports of the Palestine Commission

which are before us. Every day which passes brings news of continued violence, of hostility, and of the mounting toll of lives which have been lost.

That the situation is very grave indeed is not questioned by any of the parties directly concerned. What is in question is the action which the Council should now take in the face of this serious and critical situation.

We continue to hear charges and counter charges from the representatives of the parties involved; we continue to hear, as we did during the meetings of the General Assembly, expressions of defiance and of threats to resort to arms.

#### SITUATION BEFORE COUNCIL

Members of Council will recall that the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 29th November, 1947 not only recommended the terms for a political settlement, but also called upon the inhabitants of Palestine to "take such steps as may be necessary on their part to put this plan into effect" and appealed to all Governments and all peoples "to refrain from taking any action which might hamper or delay the carrying out of these recommendations".

The situation which confronts the Council today is that these recommendations and these appeals have not had the effect of bringing peace and order in the Holy Land. The threats uttered during the General Assembly have now turned into acts of violence verging on civil war. The sparks ignited by intense emotion and conflicting passions now might at any moment, unless quenched, cause a conflagration which would certainly result in a breach of international peace.

#### ACTION TO ENSURE PEACE

The question then before the Council is what action can and should it take to ensure international peace and security.

As a basis for taking its first decision on this case, the Council has been offered the draft resolution submitted by the distinguished representative of the United States and the amendment to it presented by the distinguished representative of Belgium.

The main difference between these proposals lies in the first paragraph of the United States draft resolution. This provides that subject to certain reservations which have been explained by the distinguished representative of the United States, the Council would accept paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the General Assembly Resolution of 29th November, 1947.

The Belgian draft contains no such provision but provides, as does the United States proposal, for the setting up of a Committee comprising the five permanent members of the Security Council to look into the situation, to consult with the Palestine Commission, the mandatory Power, and others directly concerned and then to report to the Council as a matter of urgency.

#### PARAMOUNT NECESSITY

It is the opinion of the Canadian delegation that before the Council accepts the position given in the first paragraph of the United States draft, including consideration of action under Article 39 and the other provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter, "action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression", the Council should first satisfy itself by its own enquiries and efforts that the situation has indeed passed beyond the possibilities of the "pacific settlement of disputes" as provided for in Chapter VI of the Charter.

In our view it is a paramount necessity that the Council should make every effort towards conciliation before the Council considers taking measures under Chapter VII. Our view in this respect is reinforced by statements made by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom in the Council yesterday. The distinguished representative of the United States for instance stated, and I quote from the verbatim record of the 260th meeting (S/PV260, page 27):

"That armed force cannot be used for implementation of the plan because the Charter limits the use of United Nations force expressly to threats to and breaches of the peace and aggression affecting international peace. Therefore, we must interpret the General Assembly Resolution as meaning that the United Nations measures to implement this Resolution are peaceful measures."

The distinguished representative of the United Kingdom emphasized a further argument in favour of conciliation, when he stated, (S/PV260 page 42-45).

"Whatever may be the merits or demerits of the General Assembly's recommendations, their workability essentially depends upon some measure of cooperation between Jews and Arabs. This cooperation, on which the maintenance of the essential services and normal life of the country depends, cannot be secured by coercion."

#### "EVEN AT THIS LATE HOUR"

Even at this late hour conciliation in our view must be tried for surely the realization must be growing upon both communities in Palestine that the present course of violence and inflexible resistance against one another can only bring chaos and mutual destruction.

For various reasons including the views of the U.S. and U.K. Governments to which I have just made reference, the Canadian delegation therefore believes that the five permanent members, representing as they do countries with special rights and privileges in the Security Council, should make a most serious, and indeed supreme effort, to resolve this situation through conciliation. For this purpose we feel that it would be natural for them to take the General Assembly Resolution of 29th November, 1947, as a starting point, as

indeed paragraph (c) of both the United States and Belgium draft proposals recognize.

If these efforts fail, it will then be for the Security Council to consider what action should be taken in regard to the questions raised in the first part of the United States proposal.

In their consultations provided for in paragraph (c) of the United States and Belgian draft proposals the permanent members should also consider what other measures the Council might take in regard to the implementation of the Assembly Resolution and the maintenance of international peace and security in Palestine.

**SUPPORTS BELGIAN AMENDMENT**

Holding these views, the Canadian delegation will support the Belgian amendment as we believe that acceptance of the first paragraph of the United States draft should be postponed until the five permanent members have had an opportunity to consult one another and the

parties directly concerned, and in particular to satisfy themselves and us that the possibilities of progress through conciliation have been exhausted.

The events in the last five months have underlined the necessity of an agreed solution, if bloodshed and strife are to be halted and peace and security established.

May I add, Mr. President, that the position taken by Canada is not to be interpreted as in any way repudiating or abandoning the recommendations of the General Assembly on partition with economic union. This is a matter on which the Council should not, in our opinion, take a decision until the Committee of the five permanent members have had a further opportunity to investigate, consult and report. At the stage which we have now reached this Committee should have the freest possible hand in this vitally important work, and should not be restricted by any prior decision of the Council.

**GOVERNMENT AND POLISH ART TREASURES**

**MR. ST. LAURENT'S STATEMENT IN COMMONS:**

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, in the House of Commons, yesterday (March 4), made the following statement on the Polish art treasures:

In view of the many references recently made in the press to certain art treasures which were brought to Canada by the Polish authorities in 1940 and in order that there may be no misapprehension about the position of the Canadian Government, I think I should give the House a rather full account of the circumstances.

On July 11, 1940, the Consul-General of Poland, Mr. Victor Podoski, informed the Secretary of State for External Affairs that the Polish ship Batory was en route to Canada carrying Polish national art treasures from the Wawel Royal Castle in Cracow. He requested that arrangements be made to permit the entry, free of customs inspection, of these articles, as Polish State property. On July 16, 1940, the Secretary of State for External Affairs was informed by the Assistant Commissioner of Customs that free entry of these items had been arranged at Halifax and Ottawa.

**NO RESPONSIBILITY ASSUMED**

Subsequently, at the request of the Polish Consul-General, the Department of Public Works provided storage space for the treasures in the Records Storage Building at the Central Experimental Farm. These facilities were granted to the Polish authorities on the clear understanding that the Canadian Government assumed no responsibility for the safekeeping of these articles. No inventory of the treasures was given to the Canadian Government. From the time that the treasures were deposited

the representatives in Canada of the Polish Government had sole access to the room where the treasures were stored, and they alone were responsible for the safekeeping of this property.

In 1945, after the retreat of the German Armies, a new government was established in Poland. This government was unconditionally recognized by the Government of Canada on July 16, 1945, on which date recognition was automatically withdrawn from the Polish Government-in-exile which had its headquarters in London.

**PARTS OF TREASURE DISPersed**

On May 16 and again on May 18, 1946, a representative of the Legation of the newly recognized Government of Poland called on the Department of External Affairs and stated that not all the Polish treasures were in the room which had been made available for the use of the Polish authorities at the Central Experimental Farm but that parts had been dispersed to various places in Canada. This was the first indication to officials of the Canadian Government that some of the treasures had been removed from the Records Storage Building, presumably by the Polish officials originally in charge of these articles.

On June 21, 1946, the Polish Legation in Ottawa informed the Department of External Affairs stating that, in the spring of 1945, a large part of the Polish art treasures which had been stored in the Records Storage Building at the Central Experimental Farm had been removed to certain places in Ottawa and in the country, and requesting the Department of External Affairs to protect these treasures.

The attitude of the Department of External Affairs was fully set forth in a reply sent to

the Polish Minister in Canada, on August 2, 1946. It was pointed out that, while a place of storage had been provided for these treasures, the Canadian Government had not accepted responsibility for their safekeeping, and that, from the original date of storage until May 1946, officials of the Government of Canada had had no access to them. The Polish Minister was also advised that, after information had been received that some of the treasures had been removed, a new lock had been placed on the door of the storage room at the Public Records Building where the treasures had been placed, and that since that time access to the room had been permitted to no one but Canadian officials. As a courtesy to the Polish Legation in Canada, and without accepting responsibility in the matter, the Department of External Affairs had communicated with various companies and institutions where, according to an officer of the Polish Legation, certain of the Polish art treasures had been stored. As a result of these enquiries the Bank of Montreal stated that it was holding in safekeeping two locked steamer trunks which, it was understood, contained property of the Polish State. Other enquiries failed to reveal the location of other missing articles. In this note it was also suggested to the Polish Minister that he should arrange as soon as possible to remove those art treasures still stored in the Records Storage Building.

On November 12, 1946, the Polish Minister called on the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and asked for the help of the Canadian Government in locating the missing treasures. The Polish Minister stated that he had been unable to obtain any information from the institutions in Canada to which the articles had been removed, concerning their location. On this occasion it was again pointed out to the Polish Minister that the only connection the Canadian Government had had with the storage of the Polish art treasures was that the Department of Public Works had made a room available to the representative of the Polish Government and had handed over to him the keys of that room. At no time prior to the arrival of the representatives of the new Polish Government, did the Canadian authorities have an inventory of the art treasures and at no time had the Canadian Government undertaken their safekeeping.

**POLISH MINISTER REQUESTS ASSISTANCE**

On November 13, 1946, the Polish Minister, in a note to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, gave detailed lists of the treasures, part of which it was stated had disappeared from a Monastery at Ste. Anne de Beaupre, and another part of which had disappeared from a Convent in Ottawa. In the note the Polish Minister again requested the assistance of the Canadian Government in locating the missing works of art.

Following the receipt of this note, the Department of External Affairs made further

enquiries in an attempt to learn where the missing treasures were located, but without success.

On December 16, 1946, a lawyer who had been consulted by persons having possession of the missing articles called on the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. He suggested that an arrangement might be made by which the property in question could be restored to the Polish State by agreement at the end of a five year period. In the meantime the treasures would be placed on public exhibition throughout Canada. He proposed also that as a gesture of goodwill between the people of Canada and the people of Poland the Canadian Government might arrange with the Polish authorities for an exhibition of Canadian art in the cities of Poland during the period that the Polish treasures were on display in Canada. It was further suggested that certain articles included in the collection of Polish treasures which it was claimed were the property of individuals, churches, and other institutions, should, at the end of the five year period, be returned to their beneficial owners. Officials of the Department of External Affairs stated that the Department could not recognize any other than the present Polish Government as entitled to property brought here as belonging to the Polish State, but nevertheless they undertook to explore with this lawyer the terms upon which agreement might be reached and the Polish Legation in Ottawa was informed of this development. Eventually, after prolonged discussions concerning which the Polish Legation was fully informed, a proposal was submitted informally to the Polish authorities for their consideration. According to the terms of this proposal the Canadian Government would have accepted custody of the art treasures for a period of five years, defraying during that time the costs of insurance, maintenance and transportation.

**POLISH GOVERNMENT REJECTS OFFER**

The Canadian authorities had no particular desire to accept custody of the treasures, nor to bear the expenses involved in holding them for a period of five years. They offered to do so only because this appeared to be a necessary condition of securing an agreement whereby the treasures might be restored to the Polish Government without further dispute. It was hoped that the Government's willingness to accept these responsibilities would be regarded by the Polish Government as an evidence of the good intentions of the Canadian authorities and of their desire to assist in settling the matter.

The Polish Government rejected this basis of settlement as, of course, it was fully entitled to do. No Canadian official at any time suggested that the Polish Government should choose to settle this question by agreement if it would prefer to seek a solution otherwise. The Charge d'Affaires of the Polish Legation subsequently addressed a further note

to us on September 29, 1947. This note was accompanied by a statement in which the circumstances leading to the loss of the treasures were outlined and in which a formal request was made that legal proceedings be initiated to apprehend those responsible for the removal of the treasures. A request was also made for action by the police authorities to locate the objects themselves. The statement further requested that steps be taken to prevent the missing articles or any part of them from being removed from Canada.

**RCMP REQUESTED TO UNDERTAKE SEARCH**

I replied to his communication that, while the Government of Canada had no responsibility for the safekeeping of these treasures, it had been decided, in order to assist the Government of Poland in the recovery of the missing objects and since efforts to bring about the return of the treasures by agreement have not been successful, to request the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to undertake a search in an effort to ascertain the location of the missing articles.

As regards the request that legal proceedings be initiated against those in possession, or thought to be in possession, of the missing property, the Polish Charge d'Affaires was advised that the Government of Poland was at perfect liberty to proceed itself in this matter through the Canadian courts.

In the note to the Polish Charge d'Affaires attention was also drawn to the inaccurate statements concerning the treasures which had been appearing in the Polish press, some of which were attributed to officials of the Foreign Ministry. It was pointed out that the Department of External Affairs had been glad to lend its assistance to the representative of Poland in Canada in order to secure the earliest possible return of the treasures to Poland. It was therefore regretted that these efforts had been incorrectly interpreted to the people of Poland and the hope was expressed that steps would be taken by the Polish Government to correct misapprehensions which had arisen as a result of reports originating in Poland.

What was done afterwards appears from the following statement issued to the Press last night by the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

"On December 2, 1947, the Minister of External Affairs requested the Minister of Justice to instruct the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to ascertain the then location of the missing Polish Art Treasures and further, if the missing articles were located, to endeavour to keep the same under surveillance until a decision could be reached as to what action might be taken by the Polish Legation.

The Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was so instructed and in January 1948, was in a position to report that a por-

tion of the treasure consisting of 23 trunks and one box had been located stored in Hotel Dieu, Quebec City, a hospital and church institution. The trunks and box had previously been stored in the Redemptorist Monastery at Ste. Anne de Beaupre, Que.

When information was received by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that the articles had been removed to the Hotel Dieu, a competent and experienced non-commissioned officer, Corporal J.R.R. Carriere, accompanied by another member of the police, Constable Houle, interviewed the Mother Superior in charge of the institution, stating that they had been requested to locate the missing Polish Art Treasures.

The Mother Superior on learning the purpose of the visit quite readily informed the members of the police that the treasures were still in the basement of the convent and offered to show them to the members. The offer was accepted and the room containing the treasures was visited by the two members of the police, accompanied by the Mother Superior and her assistant.

It was the Mother Superior who directed the police through the cloister, although in fact the police offered to proceed to the basement by an outside entrance.

**RCMP MAKE NO DEMAND TO ENTER**

The purpose of the interview was to seek information and the RCMP made no demand to enter, much less was there any suggestion that they had a right to search. They were received most courteously by the Mother Superior.

At a later date Inspector Rene J. Belec again interviewed the Mother Superior and was received in a most co-operative and understanding manner.

The police were fully aware that there was a dispute as to the rightful ownership or possession of the articles and the Commissioner of the Police had specifically instructed that they should be treated as missing property and that no demand could be made to produce the property nor if located should any seizure action be taken.

As to the statement to which I referred yesterday as having been handed to me just before I came into the House and as being so extraordinary in its terms and inaccurate in its assertions that I wished to ascertain whether or not it really had been made before dealing with it, I have now found that it was made and I must repeat that it contains many assertions which are not true. Thus in the first paragraph it is said that a short while ago members of the Federal Police without search warrants and in an illegal manner, forced their entrance not only into the Convent of the Sisters of the Hotel-Dieu but also into their cloister.

This is an untrue statement and honourable members will have seen in this morning's papers that the Reverend Mother Superior of the Con-

vent has given it a dignified but no less unqualified denial. I think her statement should also be made a part of their record. As reported in the Press, it is as follows:

"A few months ago we were asked to receive from a very respectable gentleman of Polish nationality and to safeguard parcels containing, we were then told, articles of art and value.

"In order to oblige we accepted the task and the packages were brought here. Things remained thus for a while and we took all care possible of the deposit in our custody to ensure their safety.

"During the month of February another gentleman, also of Polish nationality, under the title of agent for the Polish Republic, claimed that said parcels should be entrusted to him.

"Informed of this task, the first person, who had put the deposit in our charge, strictly forbade us to give the said parcels away; he strengthened his order by reminding us that according to law we were not allowed to remit the deposit in question - a deposit in trust - to anyone but himself, and ordered the removal of the parcels to the Provincial Museum.

"We then addressed ourselves to the Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec, who consented to the transportation of the aforementioned articles to the museum. We believed the museum a safe place for the valuables.

"We are willing to admit that our religious community had no reasons at all to permit a trial between the two gentlemen in question to implicate us. The Provincial Government, on its part, had told us of its intention to conform itself to the tribunal's decision.

"We want it noted and understood that there was never a 'saisie' (seizure) in our monastery by the Provincial Government, and that the deposit was never at any time under the protection of the R.C.M.P.

"We accepted the deposit in good faith and we returned it according to instructions received from the person who had entrusted the valuables to our care in the first place."

**NO VIOLATION OF CLOISTERS**

The suggestion in Mr. Duplessis' statement that there was a violation of the cloister is quite ridiculous. His statement further says:

"We are much grieved that the Federal authorities of our country, particularly the Ministers representing the province of Quebec in the country's government, made themselves the collaborators of Stalin and his Polish government to the point that they ordered their police to ignore the laws and to violate the cloister of that noble Order."

When one notes this clumsy but deliberate attempt to smear the Ministers representing the province of Quebec in the country's government and remembers that he is preparing for a provincial election, one can only deplore that Mr. Duplessis should expect such tactics to win for him anything but contempt.

The statement goes on to say that the government of the province of Quebec "has seized and impounded these treasures." This is what the Federal government had been asked to do but had refused to do, informing those who made the request that in this country the executive government did not seize and impound objects to which there were disputing claimants; that all we could do would be to ascertain if possible where the objects were and the disputing claimants would then have to resort to the Courts for an adjudication upon their rights if they saw fit to do so.

Now whatever may be the views of individuals with respect to the present government of Poland, it is and it has been for over two years the legal government of that country recognized as such by all civilized nations, and the Federal authorities have never felt and do not feel that they are acting as "accomplices" of that government in saying to it as they would say to the government of any other sovereign State that it is free to resort to Courts of Canada to assert and enforce any rights it may have as such to property actually situated in Canada.

**CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER RESIGNS:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, informed the House of Commons, March 3, that he had received letters informing him of the resignation of Frantisek Nemecek, minister plenipotentiary for Czechoslovakia in Canada and also of the resignations of Dr. Vladimir Moudry, first secretary, Dr. Karel Bala, commercial attaché and Miss Alzbeta Katzova and Miss Eva Blumenscheinova, both office secretaries at the Czechoslovakia legation.

**BARLEY, OATS PRICES SUPPORTED:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, made the following statement in the House of Commons, March 1:

At this time, I wish to make a statement that will be of interest to the producers of oats and barley.

During the current crop season support prices for both oats and barley are in effect and the Government intend to extend these to July 31st, 1949, at the same support levels prevailing this crop year.

Oats will continue to be supported at levels based on 61½ cents for Number One Feed Oats, in store Fort-William/Port Arthur, with other grades at appropriate differentials to be fixed from time to time by the Wheat Board.



Barley will also be supported at 90 cents per bushel for Number One Feed Barley, in store Fort-William/Port Arthur, with other grades at appropriate differentials to be fixed from time to time by the Wheat Board.

The purpose in making this announcement at this time is to enable producers of oats and barley to plan their operation for the coming crop year with the assurance that market prices will not decline below the support levels. As in the present crop year, the Canadian Wheat Board will be directed to implement this policy.

**DEATH OF SENATOR ROBICHEAU:** Senator J.L.P. Robicheau of Maxwellton N.S., who represented

Digby-Clare in the Senate died in Quebec City, March 1.

A Conservative, Senator Robicheau was the first Acadian to second the speech from the throne in the Nova Scotia legislature in 1926.

He was first elected to the Nova Scotia legislature for Digby in 1925 and the following year was appointed farming commissioner for the province. He was defeated in the provincial elections of 1928, and called to the Senate in 1935.

Party Standing in the Senate now is: Liberal 65; Progressive Conservative 21; vacant 10.

Senator Robicheau's death creates the third Nova Scotia vacancy. Other vacancies: Ontario 3 Alberta 2, British Columbia 1, New Brunswick 1.