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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION: The following is the text of the statement made in the House of Commons on February 22, by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, on religious persecution in the satellite countries of Eastern Europe:

During the past few weeks, Mr. Speaker, this House and the country as a whole have watched with deepening concern what appears to be a systematic campaign of religious persecution in all the satellite states of Eastern Europe, but particularly in Hungary where within a short space of time the heads of three branches of the Christian Church, the Roman Catholic, the Calvinist and the Lutheran, have either been sentenced to severe punishment or driven into exile. More recent persecutions in Bulgaria seem to be following the same pattern.

2. The Government of Canada has already indicated in the most positive terms and in language clear beyond all possibility of mistake, its abhorrence of this systematic persecution. In a statement on New Year's Day I said that the increasingly brutal persecutions of religious leaders in countries behind the iron curtain have shocked all civilized people. These views were reiterated and strengthened on February 2 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the light of more recent developments, I now wish to re-affirm the position of the Canadian Government.

3. Immediately after the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, the Canadian Government, as a signatory of the Peace Treaty, asked our diplomatic representatives in a number of European capitals and Washington to secure all the available information and to report any steps that might be anticipated on the part of the Governments to which they were accredited. Careful study was given also to official intelligence from other sources and to press reports.

4. This was followed, as the House will recall from the statement made on February 2 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, by a communication to the Hungarian Government through the Hungarian Minister in Washington, protesting strongly against a policy of repression and religious persecution which appeared to destroy religious freedom in Hungary and appeared also to violate obligations to secure the enjoyment of human rights, including freedom of religious worship, to which Hungary was pledged under the Treaty of Peace of 1947.

5. In this message, particular reference was made to the arrest not only of Cardinal Mindszenty, but also of the Senior Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Hungary, and to the flight into exile, under force of persecution, of the Senior Bishop of the Calvinist Church in Hungary.

DR. BOUCHARD CHAIRMAN: The appointment of Dr. Georges Bouchard, C.B.E., Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, as member and Chairman of the Advisory Board on Wildlife Protection, has been announced by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. MacKinnon.

The Advisory Board on Wildlife Protection, which was established in 1916, advises Departments of Government on questions of wildlife policy and management that arise from time to time. Most of these questions relate to the Northwest Territories or to the Migratory Birds Convention Act. At present the Board comprises twenty-six members and includes both scientists and administrators from various Departments of the federal Government that have an interest in the wildlife resources of Canada.

Dr. Bouchard has long been interested in wildlife matters. Before entering the Public Service in 1940, he was for almost a quarter of a century Professor of Zoology at the Agricultural College of Sainte Anne de la Pocatière, and affiliate of Laval University.

AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY: Aircraft and parts were manufactured in Canada in 1947 to the value of \$44,304,000, showing an increase of 22 per cent over the preceding year, but far below the wartime production from 1941 to 1945. There were 12 plants in operation during the year, of which seven were assembly plants and five were parts plants. In the industry as a whole, there were 9,374 employees to whom \$21,422,000 was paid in salaries and wages, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

In the seven assembly plants, which constitute the core of the industry, there were 8,603 workers in 1947, according to the annual report by the Bureau of Statistics, and production, including 199 complete aircraft, was valued at \$40,755,000. The five parts plants had a production valued at \$3,548,000.

There were 406 aircraft not including engines, imported in 1947 as compared with 332 in 1946. All but six came from the United States. Imports of aircraft engines during the year totalled 674 compared with 778. During the year, 179 aircraft were exported and 99 re-exported.

BEST RECRUITING MONTH: Strength of the armed forces increased by 1,034 all ranks in January, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, said on February 20.

The navy reported a net increase for the month of 218, the army 513, and the air force 303.

It was the best recruiting month the navy and air force have enjoyed since post-war recruiting started in 1946, Mr. Claxton indicated, and for the army it was the biggest and best month since May, 1947.

Strength of the navy as of January 31 stood at 7,753, the army at 17,976, and the air

force at 13,998, but it is known that since that date the army has passed the 18,000 mark by a considerable number and the air force is well over 14,000.

Speaking on the armed forces weekly radio program, "Comrades in Arms," Mr. Claxton said:

"During the last five months, from September to January inclusive, we have taken into the Active Forces of Canada, the full-time navy, army and air force, exactly 4,383 men. That shows a 75% increase over the number taken for the corresponding months a year ago. What is more important, in the month of January alone, we took in nearly 1,100 men, the largest number in any month since the war. That has been done without lowering quality. Indeed the quality is as high or higher than we have ever had. At this rate, our three services should be filled up to the strengths we now want towards the end of 1949 or early in 1950. We still need more men of the same quality who can look forward to a career of opportunity with the Active Forces of Canada.

"The results for the Reserve show that we have taken on more than 10,000 men during the same five months. There, however, the turnover is naturally greater and we would like to see an even larger number of young men who are willing to give part of their time to Canada by working in the Reserve units.

"We want your continued support for the men of our armed forces. We believe that they are working for you, working for peace. It is perfectly clear today that the only way to preserve our freedom, our security and our peace is to work with other like-minded nations so that our combined strengths will preserve the peace by making it perfectly plain that no aggressor can win."

PRODUCTS WITHDRAWN: Following the report of four deaths in the United States from the use of salt substitutes containing lithium chloride for those on salt-free diets, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, instructed the food and drug divisions of the Department to ask for the recall of all these products from the Canadian market.

WHEAT MARKETINGS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on February 10 amounted to 153,869,000 bushels, showing a decline of 3,163,000 bushels from the February 3 figure of 157,062,000, but up 36,442,000 bushels over last year's corresponding total of 117,427,000, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

STORE SALES UP: Showing a slackening in the rate of rise, department store sales showed an increase of eight per cent during the week ending February 12 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures issued by the Bureau of Statis-

tics. All provinces shared in the rise with the exception of Manitoba where the decline was one per cent. Sales in Saskatchewan increased 18 per cent, Alberta 16 per cent, the Maritimes 13 per cent, and Quebec and Ontario each seven per cent.

RECORD PRODUCTION: Domestic electric refrigerators and washing machines were produced in Canada in greater numbers during 1948 than in any other year. In December production of washing machines was at an all-time monthly high figure, while the month's output of refrigerators, although below the level of some earlier months, was well ahead of the average.

During the year, 138,883 electric refrigerators were produced compared with 97,408 in the preceding year, 125,839 were shipped for sale in Canada compared with 93,418, and 13,300 were shipped for export compared with 3,187, according to the Bureau of Statistics. At the end of the year manufacturers' stocks totalled 1,632 units compared with 1,424 at the end of 1947. In December, 12,147 units were turned out compared with 9,323 a year earlier.

Output of domestic washing machines in 1948 totalled 322,963 units compared with 218,745 in 1947, an increase of 47.6 per cent. Shipments during the year amounted to 321,151 units, up from 218,211 in 1947, while year-end stocks totalled 3,053 units compared with 1,258.

REMOVAL OF CONTROLS: Removal of export and import controls on animal, vegetable and marine oils and fats, was announced on February 21 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe. This follows a decision by the International Emergency Food Committee to remove international allocations on these items.

During the period that these allocations had been in effect, Canada was committed to maintain a system of import controls in order to ensure that our purchases were kept within the allocations set by the Committee. With the suspension of international allocations, however, the Canadian Government has removed domestic import controls. It has also been found that the retention of export control on domestically produced oils and fats is no longer necessary.

The following are the commodities which are being released from import and export controls:-

Vegetable oil seeds and materials as follows, and all oils and fats made therefrom: Castor, dehydrated castor, chinawood (Tung) coconut, copra, corn (oil only), cottonseed, oiticica, olive; olive kernel and foots; palm; palm kernel, peanuts; groundnuts, rapeseed, salad dressing containing oil, sesame seed, shortening; other compounded cooking fats or oils, soybean; soybean flour (full fat only)

sunflower seed, teaseed, vegetable foots or soapstock; fatty acids, vegetable stearin, vegetable tallow, weed seed, including wild mustard seed.

Animal products as follows:-
Bones of all kinds, except edible fresh frozen bones.

Oils, fats and greases, edible or inedible, as follows:-

Animal fats and greases, n.o.p., degrass; wool grease, fat waste, scrap and offal, fish body and viscera oils of common cod, halibut (head), herring and pilchard, foots or soapstock, lard; lard oil; neatfoot; oleic acid or red oil, oleine; oleo oil; oleo stock, stearin; stearic acid, tallow.

Chemical and allied products:-
Fatty acids and oils, sulphated or sulphated, or produced from vegetable oils listed in this schedule, soaps of all kinds, in a lot exceeding \$25 in value, specialty cleaning or washing compounds with soap content, in a lot exceeding \$25 in value.

ARCTIC TRAINING: Soldiers undergoing training in arctic warfare at the Services' cold-weather testing station at Churchill, Man., make a point of not referring to Army nursing sisters as members of the "weaker sex". They know better.

The girls not only have volunteered for the rugged 16-day winter training courses given soldiers but are undertaking the most rigorous phases of the training including long snowmobile jaunts and overnight camps. They're sleeping in regular issue sleeping bags and cooking their own meals outdoors, according to an Army news release.

WORK STOPPAGES: Time loss through work stoppages arising from industrial disputes in Canada during January, 1948, was the lowest recorded for any month since June, 1945, according to the monthly summary of strikes and lockouts for January, issued by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

Time loss amounted to slightly more than half of the figure for the previous month and approximately seven per cent of the figure recorded for January, 1948. Fewer workers were involved in work stoppages than in any month since November, 1944.

Preliminary figures for January, 1949, show 10 strikes and lockouts in existence, involving 1,811 workers, with a time loss of 9,700 man-working days, as compared with 11 in December, 1948, with 2,481 workers involved and a time loss of 18,939 days. In January, 1948, there were 19 strikes, involving 12,595 workers, with a time loss of 135,780 days.

Of the 10 strikes which were in existence for varying periods during January, five were in effect prior to the first of the year. Of these five, four were terminated by the end of the month, and of the five which began during

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January, three were terminated by January 31. Thus, three strikes were still in effect at the beginning of February.

Based on the number of non-agricultural wage and salary workers in Canada, the time lost in January, 1949, was .01 per cent of the estimated working time as compared with .02 per cent in December, 1948; .17 per cent in January, 1948; and .10 per cent for the year 1948.

22,562 VETS AT UNIVERSITY: Some 22,562 veterans of the Second World War -- three and a half years after the cessation of hostilities -- still are attending Canadian universities to complete their education, according to figures released by the Department of Labour.

Of the total, 2,076 are first-year students; 5,218 second year; 8,007 third year; 6,340 fourth year or subsequent years. Another 1,890 are taking post-graduate courses in Canada, the U.S.A. or abroad.

About 10,000 are registered in arts and science course, 5,000 in engineering, 2,000 in commerce, 1,250 in agriculture, 1,250 in law, 750 in medicine and 425 in dentistry.

MR. SIFTON HONORARY COLONEL: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, addressing the annual meeting of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Association on February 21, announced the appointment of Mr. Victor Sifton, CBE, DSO, as Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Corps.

Mr. Sifton, widely known throughout Canada as president and publisher of the Winnipeg Free Press, has been Honorary Colonel of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps since March 1946. His new and higher appointment is a further tribute to his wartime work as Master-General of the Ordnance and to his continuing interest in ordnance problems today.

Mr. Sifton, who holds the rank of major in the Supplementary Reserve, was commissioned in the 9th Mississauga Horse in October 1914 and served with distinction in France and Belgium, being wounded and awarded the Distinguished Service Order. On August 8, 1940, he was appointed an executive assistant on the staff of the Minister of National Defence, and four months later he became Master-General of the Ordnance, serving in both cases without remuneration. He retained the latter appointment until June 30, 1942, having in the meantime completed the difficult task of reorganizing the branch in order that all sections could adequately meet the vast and increasing requirements of the Canadian Army.

R.M.C. - WEST POINT HOCKEY: Described often in the past as one of the world's most sporting athletic events, the annual hockey series between the Royal Military College of Kingston, and the U.S. Military Academy, West Point,

N.Y., will be resumed on March 12 after a seven-year lapse. This year's game will be played at West Point. As R.M.C. only opened this year, the team must be made up from the 100 cadets who comprise the first-year class.

Despite their youth and inexperience, the cadets from RMC will go all-out to add to the impressive total of Canadian victories since the series was inaugurated in 1923. Only twice have the Pointers claimed victories, in 1939 and again in 1942. The teams battled to a 4-4 tie in 1935.

Proof of the extraordinary tradition of sportsmanship which has always highlighted the series lies in the fact that no player has ever been penalized.

NEW FELLOWSHIPS: A new group of postdoctoral fellowships in the natural sciences is being made available to Canadian men and women with a doctorate degree in chemistry or biology who wish to broaden their fields of investigation and who have demonstrated unusual talent for experimental research. These fellowships are being supported by Merck and Company Limited and the selection of fellows is to be made by the Merck Fellowship Board of the National Research Council of Canada.

Value of the fellowships will range from \$2500 to \$5000 in addition to which a travel allowance may be made when necessary. Fellowships will be tenable in selected institutions in Canada and abroad and it is a requirement that a fellow shall pursue his fellowship work at an institution other than the one from which he secured his doctorate degree. Merck fellowships are open only to citizens of Canada.

Applications must be filed before April 1, 1949. Awards will be made as soon as possible after May 1, 1949. Unless otherwise arranged, tenure will begin on July 1, 1949. Initial appointment will be for one year renewable for a second year and, in exceptional cases, renewable for a third year. A total of six weeks a year will be allowed for vacation.

Applications and requests for information regarding these awards should be addressed to the Merck Fellowship Board, National Research Council of Canada.

MR. SAINT-AMOUR REAPPOINTED: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on February 23 that an Order in Council had been passed approving the action of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada in appointing Mr. Leo Paul Saint-Amour to a third term of office as Assistant Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada. The present appointment, which is for a further period of seven years from February 18, is made by the Board of Directors of the Bank. Under the provisions of the Bank of Canada Act the appointment by the Directors requires the approval of the Governor in Council and this has been given in the Order in Council announced by the Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES HOUSING

ANXIOUS TO ASSIST: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, addressed a luncheon given in his honour by the Mayor and City Council of Toronto on February 19. He discussed federal Government policy in respect of civilian housing. Excerpts from his address are as follows:

"It is not part of the present plans of the federal Government to move from veterans' rental projects into rental housing for civilians....

"The federal Government is anxious to assist substantial residential redevelopment throughout the country. As conditions warrant, we hope that the provisions of the National Housing Act will be widely and progressively used. There are bound to be periods when conditions of employment will make it desirable to push ahead with slum clearance more vigorously than we can do it now, and when urban redevelopment will serve the double purpose of providing better housing and more employment. But you all know that, in present circumstances, one of the great difficulties is a scarcity of labour for building in most parts of Canada.

SOCIAL PROBLEM

"Housing is one of the most pressing of our social problems, and one which must be faced energetically. But, in most of its aspects, housing is a function of property and civil rights, and property and civil rights fall within the jurisdiction of the provincial and municipal governments. Direct participation in housing development by the federal Government is, therefore, limited by our limited constitutional authority. We can, and we do, help to finance housing. But practically, as well as constitutionally, there is much the federal Government cannot do, if we are to respect the dictates of common sense as well as the rights of the provinces.

"Experience in the construction of rental projects for veterans has clearly shown that it is impossible for an agency of the federal Government to engage in housing development without the active support of the municipality in which the housing is being provided and that requires the concurrence of the provincial authorities.

"In some quarters there is the impression that federal activity, through our Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, in the direct construction of houses is a long-term policy. I would like to clarify this impression. Housing for veterans with overseas service is a national responsibility. Many veterans needed rental housing units. Rental housing was in short supply, both because of the growth of the population and the high level of national income. Furthermore, construction of rental

housing during the war was relatively small. The activities of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in the construction of rental housing are designed to provide housing for veterans in places where suitable financial arrangements can be made with municipalities.

"It is not part of the present plans of the federal Government to move from veterans' rental projects into rental housing for civilians. Since housing, by its very nature, is a local matter, it is our view that when public funds are required for houses to be publicly owned, construction and management of such projects should be undertaken locally. I think everyone would agree that, when municipalities participate financially in a housing project, they are more apt to give it the kind of local supervision which is essential for success.

"We feel that the proper policy for the federal Government is one which is limited to extending financial assistance to individuals and corporations, whether home owners or landlords, to provide new housing. The National Housing Act does make mortgage credit readily available to individuals and landlords undertaking to provide rental housing. The ever-increasing use and effectiveness of our housing legislation in the financing of a larger proportion of private building proves its soundness. It is the deliberate policy of the Government to encourage house building by private and local enterprise, so that as much of our housing needs as possible can be provided, without making the National Government the landlord of too many voters.

LOW RENTALS NEED

"That does not mean that we do not recognize the need for housing units at low rents. With today's costs, it must be obvious that low rental housing cannot be provided without some kind of financial assistance. Our legislation provides for slum clearance grants, and also for loans to limited dividend companies for the construction of low rental housing. It may be that experience will show that other forms of federal assistance will be desirable.

"The federal Government has not a closed mind on this question. While we hope that as much of our new housing as possible can be provided through private and local enterprise, we recognize that privately initiated housing may have to be supplemented and stimulated by even further Government support for low rental housing.

"In August, 1945, the federal Government invited the provincial governments to consider co-operation in meeting the problem of low rental housing. So far there has been no agreement between them".

REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

RECORD LEVELS REACHED: In a statement on February 20 the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, pointed out a number of important facts concerning employment activity during the past year.

Not only had record employment levels been reached throughout the past twelve months, he stated, but workers generally had shown a greater inclination to stay on the job than in any previous post-war year. As a result, both labour turnover and absenteeism had declined markedly.

This greater employment stability, along with large expenditures in most industries on new plant and equipment, helped to increase production. In 1948, employment of paid workers in manufacturing, for example, averaged one per cent more than in 1947 and the volume of manufacturing production rose by almost three per cent.

Total employment in Canada during 1948 averaged just under 4,800,000, Mr. Mitchell said, approximately 100,000 more than in 1947. The expansion was greatest amongst non-agricultural industries while employment in agriculture declined slightly.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

This employment expansion raised some important labour supply problems, specially since employment was already at a high level. A continuing movement of persons from rural to urban areas left agriculture, mining and other primary industries in need of more workers. Even with these additional workers, the expanded labour requirements of urban industries remained unsatisfied. Many more workers were needed, especially skilled men who were not available regionally or even within Canada.

A few large scale movements of labour, similar to those in previous years, were arranged to meet the peak seasonal requirements in agriculture. Others of a more permanent character were developed by the National Employment Service to move workers from labour surplus areas to areas where there was a strong demand.

In addition, the National Employment Service, in its day-to-day activities of matching men and jobs, helped to meet thousands of urgent labour needs. Altogether more than 700,000 placements were made throughout 1948. This means that on the average 60,000 placements were made every month by the 215 full time and branch offices throughout Canada.

By industries, the largest number of placements were made in services with a total of slightly more than 200,000. Manufacturing was second with approximately 175,000 placements and construction third with 116,000.

The immigration of many thousands of workers also helped to meet our labour needs. During 1948, more workers came to Canada from other countries than any other year since 1929. Many

of these came under special co-operative arrangements which were made between the Departments of Labour and Mines and Resources. They have helped to meet labour requirements in primary and secondary industries and in service occupations.

Another aspect of employment, upon which the Minister commented, was the extremely favourable situation which prevailed in the past year in industrial relations. Only 41,000 workers were involved in strikes during 1948 as compared with 104,000 in 1947 and 140,000 in 1946. Of even greater significance is the fact that 900,000 man-working days were lost as the result of strikes in 1948 as compared with 2,400,000 in the preceding year and more than 4,000,000 in 1946.

Commenting more specifically on employment activity in each region, Mr. Mitchell stated that conditions in the Maritimes showed definite improvement over the past year. Not only was the total number of persons employed in 1948 higher than in any other post-war year, but also a considerable number of workers moved to jobs in other provinces. The industrial relations record was particularly striking in the Maritimes with fewer than 20,000 man-working days lost as a result of strikes in 1948. Throughout the year, National Employment Service offices in these three provinces made 45,000 job placements.

QUEBEC EXPANSION

Employment expanded significantly in Quebec during the past year to average 1,352,000 persons, an increase of 28,000 over 1947. The increase was sharpest in the non-agricultural industries. The generally high demand for almost all types of workers resulted in a total of 128,000 placements being made over the year. In the past year, hourly earnings of workers in Quebec rose more rapidly than in Canada as a whole.

In Ontario, all-time records were established for both industrial activity and employment during the past year. About 286,000 workers were placed in jobs by the National Employment Service and much of this hiring represented a basic expansion in employment. Total employment averaged 1,729,000 in this region during 1948. Almost one-half of the 125,000 immigrants who came to Canada during 1948 settled in Ontario.

Stability characterized the employment scene in the Prairie Provinces. There was a small shift of workers from agriculture to industry, but on the whole people tended to stay in their jobs and unemployment averaged less than two per cent of the labour force, the lowest in any region. Cash income to the farmers of the Prairie Provinces was the highest of any year on record. About 156,000 placements were made by National Employment Service offices in this region.

SUPERSONIC RESEARCH: Grants totalling \$350,000 for supersonic research are to be made to the University of Toronto by the Department of National Defence through the Defence Research Board, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, and President Sidney Smith, of the University of Toronto, announced on February 24.

Of the total, \$250,000 is to be expended for building modifications and research equipment in establishing a supersonic aerodynamics research laboratory at Downsview Airport, Toronto. The remaining \$100,000 is to be expended over a three-year period to assist in defraying operating costs. The laboratory will be directed and operated by the University but title to the building and equipment will remain with the Department of National Defence.

The laboratory will function as a part of the University's Department of Aeronautical Engineering, headed by Prof. T.R. Loudon, and will be under the immediate direction of Dr. G.N. Patterson who has an international reputation in this field of research.

The main piece of equipment will be a wind tunnel capable of producing supersonic speeds up to Mach 10 (10 times the speed of sound).

Dr. O.M. Solandt, Chairman of the Defence Research Board, said that such a university laboratory would be of great value in meeting the needs of the National Research Council, the Defence Research Board and the aircraft industry for trained research workers. In time of emergency, he added, the laboratory would be available for applied research on supersonic aircraft, guided missiles and the ballistics of projectiles.

The building at Downsview is being turned over to the Defence Research Board by the Royal Canadian Air Force.

KEY EQUIPMENT

Key piece of equipment in Varsity's new supersonic laboratory will be a steel sphere 40 feet in diameter, somewhat higher than a three-storey building. Dr. Sidney Smith said, commenting on the announcement. Air will be pumped from the sphere to create an almost perfect vacuum. Then, thoroughly dry and free of dust particles, it will be sucked back into the sphere at supersonic speed through a narrow throat in which its effect on stationary models will be observed and photographed.

He said the same vacuum sphere will also operate a number of smaller tunnels of special design required for basic problems in fluid dynamics.

Work on shock waves already is in progress at the University of Toronto and a 12-foot shock tube was constructed last year by graduate research workers under the direction of Dr. G.N. Patterson, Varsity's Professor of Aerodynamics. Using gases under various pressures, Dr. Patterson's group can send shock waves down the tube at speeds up to 3,000 miles an hour. In time they believe this equipment will generate speeds of 8,000 miles an hour.

Dr. Patterson is also a member of the aerodynamics panel at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory White Oak, Maryland, where he spends approximately one week a month. Native of Edmonton, Dr. Patterson graduated from the University of Alberta in 1931, took post-graduate work in the Department of Physics at the University of Toronto. He spent four years as scientific officer in the aerodynamics department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, England, and, in 1939, was appointed by the Australian Government to set up an aerodynamics research laboratory at Melbourne. He has carried on post-doctoral study and research at the California Institute of Technology and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

RENTAL REGULATIONS: The Wartime Prices and Trade Board announced on February 23 that the powers of its Commissioners have been extended effective March 1, 1949 by a new Order so as to deal with cases in which a housing accommodation is operated as a rooming house by a tenant who does not live in the house. Such a tenant actually operates a rooming house business at arms length and cannot claim to need the protection of rental regulations in order to "preserve a roof over his head".

The new Order authorizes a Commissioner to exempt from rent control the lease of any house operated as a rooming house by a tenant who does not himself live therein; provided, of course, that the landlord of the house is willing to undertake the operation of it as a rooming house and that he has given to the Commissioner satisfactory assurances that he will extend to the occupants of the house the same rights, treatment and protection as they had been receiving from the previous operator of the house.

ICAO VACANCY: Member States of the International Civil Aviation Organization are being asked to submit applications for the position of Chief of the Administrative Bureau. Dr. Albert Roper, Secretary General, announced on February 21. The position will become vacant July 1 through the resignation of Mr. P.A. Cumyn, who is returning to private business.

JANUARY EXPORTS: Canada's merchandise exports showed a slight rise in January over the corresponding month of last year. During the month there was a further increase in the value of shipments to the United States and a sharp rise to India and Pakistan, but the movement of goods to the United Kingdom and European countries was again lower.

Figures released by the Bureau of Statistics place the value of domestic exports at \$237,000,000 as compared with \$235,400,000 in January last year.

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THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

6. It seemed clear from these incidents that all religious faiths were involved and that a general attack was being launched on the fundamental freedoms of human society. Fresh emphasis was given to the repressive character of these arrests by the conditions under which the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty was conducted. It can hardly be said that these proceedings bear any resemblance to what we understand by a "fair trial". From official sources in which we have confidence, we learn, for example, the following facts about the conduct of this case.

7. The trial which involved seven persons and four different charges, including capital charges, was concluded in three days. No witnesses were called for the defence. The Counsel for the prosecution made no attempt to establish his case but confined himself for the most part to enlarging on the political fairness of the trial. The Counsel for the defence put no case for the defence and did not contest easily refutable statements made by the Counsel for the prosecution; and the material evidence consisted of statements taken outside the court before the trial. It may be added that no representatives of non-Communist governments were permitted to attend the trial. We are informed also that the representative of the Government of Australia attempted to visit Budapest for this purpose, but though a visa was promised on six occasions, it was not forthcoming.

SEEK OTHERS' VIEWS

8. Meanwhile the Government is continuing to seek the views of like minded governments, signatory to the Treaty, on the character and desirability of any further action that may be taken jointly or independently. It has been suggested, for example, that the Treaty of Peace be invoked. Unfortunately, the procedures which are immediately available under the Treaty of Peace all depend for their effectiveness on the co-operation of the Soviet Government. Since the U.S.S.R. not only supports but even encourages governments which it can influence in their hostility to religion, it is not likely to give the other signatories to the Peace Treaties much assistance in putting a halt to religious persecution in Eastern Europe. It may be, however, that the signatories to the Treaties, even without the support of the Soviet Union, could through joint representation based on these provisions of these Treaties have some influence upon the governments which are responsible for these acts.

9. Provision is also made in the Treaty for a procedure leading to the establishment of a Commission of three to act in regard to any dispute arising out of the execution or interpretation of the Treaty. The majority decision

of this Commission would be binding on the parties to the dispute.

10. If this procedure were used, the obstruction of the U.S.S.R. to action under it could not become effective until efforts were made to give effect to the decisions of the Commission.

11. A further possibility that has received some public notice is that the matter be referred to the United Nations; because it would seem obvious that the spirit of repression and persecution that pervades the events under review is clearly not in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations or the Declaration of Human Rights.

12. In any case it is the view of the Government that a state which fails to carry out its Treaty obligations in letter and spirit, cannot expect to be supported in its application for admission to the United Nations; and indeed might expect formally to be condemned by the world organization.

13. But, Mr. Speaker, in examining these or any other suggestions that may be made the Government's course will be guided by considerations that are more significant than tactics or gestures. While giving the fullest expression to our profound abhorrence of religious persecution, however it may be disguised, we shall seek to take only such action as appears to offer a reasonable prospect of promoting the principles in which we believe and at the same time of ameliorating the situation with which we are faced in the Communist countries.

EVENTS IN HUNGARY

14. The events in Hungary have, as hon. members know, been followed by similar action on the part of the Bulgarian Government. On February 10 that Government issued its indictment of 15 Protestant leaders in that country, charging them with espionage, and other crimes.

15. The Government has instructed the Canadian Chargé d'Affaires in Prague to apply for visas to visit Hungary and Roumania in order that he may make inquiries on the spot and report to the Government. Canada is not a signatory to the Bulgarian Treaty, but in any joint action that may be considered advisable, this country would find no difficulty in associating itself with such action. The principles of religious freedom and fundamental human rights are not confined to the articles of a Peace Treaty.

16. The clear and common sense conclusion, Mr. Speaker, is that the cases of each Church, each Bishop, or each group of religious leaders, are horrifying incidents in what appears to be a Grand Design, a calculated policy of persecution aimed not perhaps at the immediate extermination of the Christian Communions, but at their ultimate subjugation and servitude.

By its nature and its dogma Marxist Communism must secure the total obedience of its subjects and cannot tolerate the free speculations of the human spirit and conscience.

17. A plain recital of a few only of the incidents in this process reveals the pattern of persecution which is swiftly being drawn over the unhappy Christians of these lands. We are already familiar with the fate in Hungary of leaders of three different churches and I have mentioned the indictments on February 10, by the Bulgarian Government of 15 Protestant leaders in that country. It is noteworthy that while these clergymen, all members of the United Evangelical Church in Bulgaria, were apparently arrested some months ago, no indictment was made until this time.

18. In Poland some 26 priests have been detained and 8 arrested for having read a pastoral letter from their Bishop, in which the anti-religious actions of government officials was severely attacked.

19. In Czechoslovakia towards the end of last year two members of the Greek Catholic Church were tried for alleged espionage activities, and early this month a new campaign was started against the Church.

20. In Roumania in December, 1948, the Roumanian Uniate Church, a branch of the Roman Catholic Church, was practically extinguished by government decree and its property confiscated.

21. It cannot be expected, I am sorry to say, that the tale is ended. From the Baltic to the frontiers of Greece the ceaseless pressure to impose a total Communist pattern goes forward. The middle way of life, the only way broad enough to contain in peace and tolerance all creeds and all faiths, is being steadily cast aside and nowhere is this clearer than in the realm of religious belief. There is no quick or simple solution: the problem is too vast and too many-sided. Old in essence, it is here new in form and it has the ruthlessness of new things.

22. The Government will continue to use whatever means are available to support every effort to assert the principles of religious and political liberty and to restore their practice.

FOOD FOR MIDDLE EAST: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, announced on February 24 that 600 tons of wheat flour are being shipped at once for the relief of refugees in the Middle East. This shipment, which is in response to a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, will be followed by approximately 50,000 cases of canned fish and 50,000 bushels of white beans. Mr. Stanton Griffis, Director of the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees, has "acknowledge with deep gratitude" the Canadian Government's offer of wheat flour, fish and beans.

An estimated number of 700,000 refugees, both Arabs and Jews, have been driven from

their homes in Palestine. Most of them are women, children and old people and are now living in the adjoining states of Lebanon, Transjordan, Syria and Egypt. People in these states have done a remarkable job of sheltering, clothing and feeding the refugees, but they are now near the end of their resources and cannot carry on unless they receive outside help. Transjordan alone, with a settled population of less than 200,000, is now attempting to care for an estimated 100,000 refugees.

To illustrate existing conditions in these Middle East countries, Mr. Pearson quoted from a press despatch:

"Children are said to be dying of measles in considerable numbers. There is nothing particularly virulent about the measles epidemic itself but the children are so weakened by pneumonia and dysentery that they are unable to resist the disease."

In November the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution asking member countries to contribute money, goods and services to a total of \$32 million, in order to keep the refugees until the next food crop in the Middle East becomes available in August, 1949. Some countries have already made gifts of tents, medicines or clothing, according to what each can offer.

Mr. Pearson said that in Canada there are surplus supplies of several kinds of foodstuffs for which no commercial market exists, and arrangements are being made through the various Commodity Prices Support Boards to donate some of these foodstuffs to the United Nations Director for the Relief of Palestine Refugees.

Several months ago the Canadian Government donated about a quarter of a million dollars worth of such supplies to the Canadian Red Cross Society for relief purposes in the Middle East.

RECORD TRAVEL PROFIT: International travel was more profitable to Canada in 1948 than in any other year, resulting in a net credit of \$150 million compared with \$84 million in 1947 and the previous peak profit of \$90 million in 1929.

Expenditures in Canada by travellers from other countries rose to a new height of \$282 million, according to first estimates by the Bureau of Statistics. At the same time, expenditures of Canadians travelling in other countries took a substantial drop from \$167 million in 1947 to \$132 million.

Last year's gain was entirely the result of travel between Canada and the United States. American spendings on travel in Canada -- advance figures for which were released earlier this month -- reached the estimated record total of \$270 million, up 12 per cent over the previous high of \$241 million in 1947, while Canadian expenditures on travel in the United States dropped from the 1947 peak of \$152 million to \$112 million.

MR. STONE'S APPOINTMENT: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, announced on February 24 the appointment of Mr. Thomas Archibald Stone as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Canada in Sweden. Since 1946 Mr. Stone has been Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

Mr. Stone was born in Chatham, Ontario, in 1900. He obtained his B.A. from the University of Toronto, and graduated from l'Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques of Paris.

Mr. Stone joined the Department of External Affairs in 1927 and was posted to Washington in the same year. He remained there until 1932 when he was transferred to Paris. While in Paris, he attended the Disarmament Conference, Geneva, and the Reparations Conference, Lausanne. Mr. Stone left the Canadian Diplomatic Service temporarily in 1935 and returned to the Department of External Affairs at Ottawa in 1939.

In May, 1944, he went to London as Counsellor on the staff of the Canadian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom. In September of that year he became Chargé d'Affaires of the Canadian Legation to the Allied Governments in London. In 1945, he was transferred to the Canadian Embassy in Washington as Counsellor, becoming Minister in 1946.

OFFICER EXCHANGE AGREEMENT: Before the end of 1949 some 19 Canadian Army officers will be serving in the United Kingdom under a new exchange agreement which will bring a similar number of British Army Officers to Canada, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on February 25.

They will exchange duties principally at schools of instruction, research and development establishments, and in staff appointments in either country.

The total of 19 expected to be exchanged this year is over and above the small group of instructors and students normally exchanged between the defence colleges in Canada and the United Kingdom each year. Some British officers are already in Canada and several Canadian

officers are now in the U.K. under the new arrangement.

"Canada and the United Kingdom have exchanged officers for many years," Mr. Claxton said. "Both countries also exchange officers with the United States. The practice permits of a free exchange of information and is of particular value to schools of instruction where new ideas and fresh viewpoints are always welcomed."

Exchanges to be arranged this year will be on a two-year basis, and officers involved will be mainly in the ranks of captain and major.

CAMP BORDEN APPOINTMENT: One of the most colorful figures of the Second World War, Wing Commander J.H.L. Lecomte DFC, of Acton Vale, P.Q., has been appointed commanding officer of RCAF station Camp Borden Ont., Air Force Headquarters announced on February 24. W/C Lecomte replaces W/C G.A. Hiltz AFC, Milltown, N.B., who moves to RCAF station Greenwood, N.S., as commanding officer.

WHEAT PRICE \$1.75: In the House of Commons, on February 24, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced that the initial price for wheat in the five-year period ending August 1, 1950, had been increased from \$1.55 to \$1.75 a bushel. The increased initial price will become effective on April 1, 1949, and will apply on all wheat delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board since August 1, 1945, and all wheat which will be delivered to the Board up to and including July 31, 1950.

WAR DAMAGE CLAIMS: The Department of External Affairs reminds all persons who have lost property, or suffered damage in Finland on account of the Second World War, that the latest date by which claims can be filed with the Government of Finland is February 28, 1949.

Notice of such claims may be sent to the Finnish Legation, Ottawa, Ontario.