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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

LABOUR CODE: The Government's federal Labour Code bill was given second reading in the House of Commons Thursday and sent to the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations. In the House on April 6, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, commented upon it: - "The legislation provides what I consider are the appropriate procedures and conciliation machinery to deal with industrial disputes affecting undertakings over which this Parliament has jurisdiction. The essential purpose of the legislation is to create conditions favourable to the free exercise of collective bargaining between employers and employees. For that reason only such regulation of employer and employee activities in their industrial relationship which are considered as necessary for the protection of the public interest is incorporated in the legislation."

E.R.P. MOVE: The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, on Thursday, in the House of Commons, moved an amendment to the Export and Import Permits Act. He explained it, in part, as follows: -

"The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that materials available in Canada for export are used in a manner that contributes to the maximum effort in the reconstruction and re-

habilitation of Europe as envisaged under the European recovery programme.

"One of the keystones of the Hyde Park agreement whereby goods move without restriction from the United States into Canada, is the understanding that this special position accorded Canada will not be subject to abuse, and that the export controls of both countries are sufficiently co-ordinated as to allow for this free movement of goods between the two countries without the possibility of their flowing to a third country.

"It is an arrangement which has proven extremely useful to Canada, and one that should be maintained.

"The United States authorities on March 1 modified their regulations, in anticipation of the European recovery programme, to require export licenses for all commodities being exported to Europe and contiguous areas.

"One can readily understand that, with the enormous demands which will be placed on the productive capacity of the United States under the European recovery programme, it is desirable that there be no diversion of United States products to Canada for back-door trading, and that we shall be found working as closely and harmoniously together in this peace offensive as under the duress of hostilities."

MANPOWER SITUATION: Since the beginning of March, the number of workers seeking jobs through National Employment Service offices has declined, and the decline will be further accentuated in the next few weeks as the construction and agricultural industries become seasonally active, it was pointed out by Honourable Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, in issuing the current manpower summary.

The resumption of normal production schedules by Ontario industries after the shut-downs in the previous month because of the gas and power shortages, was the greatest contributory factor to the decline in unplaced applicants since February. Unplaced applicants increased slightly in both the Quebec and Maritime regions with the gradual cessation of logging operations. In both the Prairie and Pacific regions, applicants remained at relatively the same levels as in the previous month.

There were 199,000 unplaced applicants registered with the National Employment Service at March 18, 1948. At February 12, unplaced applicants were 198,000. They reached a peak of 201,000 at February 26. Male applicants numbered 3,000 more at March 18 than one month previously; on the other hand, female applicants showed a 2,000 decrease.

Unfilled vacancies increased to 34,000 at March 18, from 33,000 at February 12. These were for male workers and were concentrated mostly in the manufacturing industry. There were 18,000 unfilled vacancies for men and 16,000 for women at March 18.

ICAO AGENDA: The Agenda for the Second Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization has been transmitted to ICAO's 46 member nations and to the 22 non-member states and 15 international organizations which have also been invited to attend, it was announced in Montreal. The meeting will open June 1 at the United Nations buildings in Geneva, and will last approximately three weeks.

The work of the Assembly will be assigned to four commissions: administrative, technical, economic and legal. Among the items to be considered by these commissions are the 1948-49 budget and its apportionment among contracting states, the Organization's relations with the United Nations and other international bodies, International Standards and Recommended Practices, undue economic burdens on international air transport, the statistical program of the Organization, an international agency for the operation of communication facilities and ground aids, and a draft convention on the international recognition of rights in aircraft. A report on the special conference held in Geneva last November to draft an agreement for the Multilateral Exchange of Commercial Air Rights will be reviewed by the Economic Commission.

\$423,978,000 SALES: Sales totalling \$4,082,900 during February have brought the grand total of receipts by War Assets Corporation from the disposal of war surplus to \$423,978,000, according to a statement issued by the Corporation.

Aggregate of sales to February 29, 1948, by principal commodities was, in round numbers, as follows:

Ships and components.....	\$115,752,000
Automotive vehicles and equipment	67,497,000
Machinery and production equipment.....	59,673,000
Lands and Buildings.....	49,075,000
Clothing and Textiles.....	35,067,000
Electrical equipment.....	16,161,000
Metals.....	15,051,000
Aircraft and Components.....	12,008,000
Scrap.....	10,264,000
Chemicals.....	8,499,000
Office Furniture and Equipment...	5,087,000
Other miscellaneous materials....	31,844,000

ECONOMIC TREND: Wholesale prices moved downward during February for the first time in more than a year, states the Canadian Statistical Review, new monthly publication of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in its review of economic conditions in February. A further decline in government bond prices, a new international wheat agreement, and a slight decline in industrial activity partly as a result of power shortages were other highlights of the month.

The sharp break in United States commodity prices during early February was checked after a fall of about 10 per cent. A small but uncertain recovery followed until a further drop in early March brought prices of 28 commodities to the lowest point in seven months. The February decline was reflected to a small extent in Canadian markets and the index of industrial materials fell slightly more than two points in the four-week period ending February 27. In the same period the index for Canadian farm product prices fell from 133.9 to 132.3.

A further decline in the prices of Canadian Government bonds brought the yield on the longest dated issues to slightly less than three per cent per annum, the rate of interest at which Canadian Government bonds were issued during the war years. These declines followed a similar drop in government bond prices in the United States and the United Kingdom during the latter part of 1947.

Though shortages of electric power and natural gas in some areas placed a small check on the rate of industrial activity during the past two months, industrial production has continued high. The index for January was 176, only a little below the last quarter of 1947. Automobile production, affected by the shortage of gas, was down about 16 per cent from December. Steel output, on the other hand, was slightly higher and production for the month was at about 87 per cent of reported

capacity. Freight carloadings declined more than seasonally during February but recovered sharply during the last week of the month. Part of this recovery resulted from the settlement of the coal strike in Alberta and British Columbia.

"MAGNIFICENT'S" AIR FIGHTERS: Specifications of the aircraft to be flown by Canada's topflight naval pilots aboard the new carrier H.M.C.S. "Magnificent" reveal that they rank among the fastest propeller-driven planes in the world. The new single-seater Sea Fury fighters are capable of a top speed of 460 miles an hour at 16,000 feet and have a cruising range of approximately 1800 - 2000 miles, while the two seater Firefly IV fighter reconnaissance plane approaches 400 miles an hour.

Pilots and observers of the 19th Carrier Air Group have been undergoing intensive training at Eglinton, in Northern Ireland since last summer, and will transfer to "Magnificent" in time for her working up exercises. "Magnificent" will move to Canadian waters in the early summer. Commanded by Lieutenant Commander H. J. Hunter, R.C.N., of Como, P.C., the 19th Carrier Air Group is made up of two squadrons: No. 803, flying the Sea Fury fighters, and No. 825, the Firefly IV fighter-reconnaissance aircraft. The first mentioned squadron is commanded by Lieutenant Commander H. J. Bird, R.C.N. of Kingston, Ont., and No. 825 by Lieutenant Commander R. E. Bartlett, R.C.N. of Qu'Appelle, Sask.

The Sea Fury, a Hawker aircraft, has an initial rate of climb over 5,000 feet a minute, its Bristol Centaurus XVIII engine being capable of taking it to a height of over 40,000 feet. Its best cruising speed is 300 miles an hour at 20,000 feet, and with the attachment of auxiliary tanks it can achieve a range of 2,080 miles. When the plane is stowed in the hangars, its 41 foot wing-span can be reduced to 18 feet when its wings are folded.

The Firefly IV, a new edition of the Firefly I that 825 Squadron formerly flew from H.M.C.S. "Warrior", has a top speed of 386 miles an hour at 14,750 feet. Its rate of climb is 3,000 feet a minute and it is powered by a Griffon 74 Rolls-Royce engine. This Fairey-built aircraft has a range of just over 1,300 miles using drop tanks and although it has a 41 foot span with its wings spread, can reduce it to a handy 16 feet when the time comes to stow it in the hangar.

NEW NATIONAL PARK: Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Acting Minister of Mines and Resources, has announced that an Order-in-Council had been passed proclaiming an area of 79.5 square miles in Albert County, New Brunswick, as a national park and subject to the National Parks Act and regulations thereunder. The

passing of the Order in Council constitutes formal acceptance of the offer of the Government of New Brunswick to convey this area to the Dominion for national parks purposes. The new park area is situated between the Goose and Upper Salmon (Alma) Rivers and extends northward from the Bay of Fundy for a distance of nine miles, and is of outstanding interest from a scenic and recreational standpoint.

HUNDREDS OF TONS OF GREASE: When the United States handed over its war surplus materials in Canada to the Canadian Government, included was a considerable quantity of motor vehicle supplies for use along the Alaska Highway, including hundreds of tons of grease and thousands of gallons of lubricating oils.

One lot of these lubricants, totalling over 200 tons of grease and more than 156,000 gallons of oil, ranging in viscosity from 10 to 140, has been assembled at White Horse, Yukon, and is now being put on the market by the Calgary Branch of War Assets Corporation, it was announced by War Assets Corporation.

Solids include chassis and gear lubricants and graphite, while liquid stocks are made up of lubricating and kerosene oil and hydraulic fluid. Also in the group are over 7,000 steel drums of 45 and 53 U.S. gallon capacity.

LIVING COSTS AT PEAK: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, reached an all-time high point on March 1, standing at 150.8 as compared with 150.1 on February 2. Although this placed the index slightly above the July, 1920 peak of 150.6, the increase during February was the smallest recorded in seven months. The increase in this series since March last year amounted to 21.9 points. From August 1939 to March 1 this year, the increase in the Dominion cost-of-living index was 49.6 per cent.

The rise between February and March this year was contributed entirely by the non-food sections of the index. The food group actually declined fractionally from 186.1 to 185.9 as price decreases for eggs and citrus fruits outweighed increases for vegetables; changes in other food sub-groups were mixed and comparatively small.

The sharpest rise came in clothing which advanced from 165.1 to 169.9. Home furnishings and services moved up from 159.9 to 161.2, and fuel and light from 120.1 to 121.0. The rent index remained at 119.9, and the miscellaneous items series at 122.8.

WHOLESALE PRICES: The weekly indexes of industrial material prices, on the base 1926=100, averaged slightly lower in March. Declines in gum rosin, hides and raw wool proved of more importance than increases in oats, steers, hogs, raw cotton, raw rubber and zinc

and depressed the index from 145.5 for the week ending February 27 to 145.0 for the week ending March 26. This was 3.2 points below the peak of 148.2 for the week ended January 23. Canadian farm products moved from 138.6 to 138.5 in the same period, as increases in rye, oats and livestock failed to offset reductions in potatoes, hay and hides.

DIVORCE INCREASING: Number of divorces granted in Canada continued upward in 1947 for the eight successive year to reach a new peak of 7,942, an increase of 259 over the previous record figure of 7,683 in 1946, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1947 rise however, is considerably below the increases in the preceding three years, comparing with 2,607 in 1946, 1,288 in 1945 and 525 in 1944. It brings the rate per 100,000 population to 63.2 as against 62.5 in 1946 and 18.4 in 1939, when 2,068 divorces were granted.

In contrast with 1946, when there were increases in every province, the number granted was higher in 1947 in five provinces and lower in four. Ontario had 3,252 divorces as compared with 2,639 in 1946, accounting for nearly 41 per cent of the Dominion total. British Columbia was again second in number with 1,826, representing about 23 per cent of the total but down from 2,005 the previous year. Alberta had 881, also a decrease from the 962 recorded in 1946; while the number in Manitoba advanced to 665 as compared with 636, and in Saskatchewan slightly to 509 as against 505 the preceding year.

Of the remaining four eastern provinces, the number for Quebec increased to 348 compared with 290 in 1946 and for Prince Edward Island to 18 as against four, while divorces for New Brunswick declined to 236 compared with 382 and for Nova Scotia to 207 compared with 260 in 1946.

RETAIL TRADE: Canada's retail trade in 1946 has been computed at \$5,506,286,000. With most wartime restrictions on production and distribution removed, high employment, rising wages and other favourable economic factors, retail sales in 1946 topped the 1945 figure of \$4,595,667,000 by almost \$1 billion. In terms of percentage gains, sales in 1946 were 20 per cent above those for 1945 and 60 per cent higher than in the last Census year, 1941. It is too early to give an accurate estimate of the dollar volume of retail sales in 1947. However, on the basis of material on hand, it is evident that sales for the year reached a point somewhere in the vicinity of \$6,250,000,000.

PEACETIME PEAK: Total freight carried on Canadian railways during 1947 amounted to 152,705,372 tons -- an unprecedented peacetime volume, and was exceeded only in the war years 1943 and 1944 when totals were 152,949,096 and 154,845,277 tons, respectively. A gain of 14,178,516 tons or 12 per cent over 1946 was recorded. Principal increases over 1946 were in wheat, corn, rye, potatoes, iron, copper and other ores, sand and gravel, petroleum, pulpwood, lumber, gasoline, iron and steel, building materials, automobiles, newsprint, wood pulp and in other manufactures and miscellaneous. Declines from 1946 were shown in tonnages of hay and straw, apples, and other agricultural products, cattle and sheep, wool, bituminous coal and coke, cordwood and fresh fish.

NEW NAVY FLAG: A distinctively Canadian flag to be flown from the ship of the Senior Canadian Officer present afloat, in both Canadian and foreign ports, has been adopted by the Royal Canadian Navy, it was announced Wednesday by Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence.

The flag will be triangular in shape, and will be dark blue with a white St. George's cross.

Up to the present, it has been the practice for the Senior Officer present afloat to fly the same pennant as that in use by the senior officer of the Royal Navy.

The new triangular blue flag, will be flown by the senior officer of any group of Canadian naval vessels. The only exception to the rule will be when the senior officer is an admiral or a Commodore when the flag or pennant of his rank will be flown.

WORLD PRICES: Wholesale price index numbers for most countries advanced to new post-war high points in the second half of 1947, with increases during this six-month period ranging from three to 35 per cent. Annual increases for 1947 were generally larger than for 1946. Some series, notably those for the United States, France and Czechoslovakia, recorded smaller annual gains in 1947, but these were cases where 1946 increases had been exceptional, reports the Bureau of Statistics.

The rate of increase in the United States Bureau of Labour wholesale price series accelerated in the second half of 1947 after a gradual rise in the first six months. A June-December rise of 10.6 per cent left the index only 2.5 per cent below the May, 1920 figure, which marked the peak level following World War-I. However, price increases throughout 1947 were less rapid than the sharp advances which had occurred after the general suspension

of commodity controls in mid-1946. The rise of 15.8 per cent recorded for 1947 was about half the net increase accumulated in 1946. The whole price picture in the United States, has of course been modified by the sharp February 1948 break in primary commodity markets.

WHOLE PRICE INDEX

The Canadian whole price index rose 12.3 per cent from June to December, 1947. An increase of 28.1 per cent for the year was the greatest percentage increase to be recorded for any single year by this series. The December index was 12.7 per cent below the 1920 peak of 164.3 recorded in May. Wholesale prices in the United Kingdom mounted 7.2 per cent between June and December, 1947. The 12-month rise of 13.1 per cent was the largest annual increase recorded since 1940. Food and tobacco prices which had maintained comparative stability since 1940 were up 9.8 per cent in 1947, while foods alone rose 6.5 per cent. Industrial materials and manufactures rose 14.9 per cent in 1947. A rise in the Mexican index in the second half did not offset earlier declines; the November index showed a two per cent loss for the year to date in contrast to a gain of 18 per cent in 1946.

Among cost-of-living series, Czechoslovakia and Norway showed declines in the second half of 1947 and for the year. Other European series continued to record moderate increases with the exception of countries where current index numbers are upwards of ten times pre-war levels, e.g., France and Italy. The new interim index of retail prices for the United Kingdom rose four per cent from June to December. Cost-of-living series for Canada and the United States accelerated their rise in the second half of 1947, with increases of 8.2 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively. Available index numbers for Australia and New Zealand recorded moderate increases in the first three quarters of the year. Price controls in both countries were retained throughout 1947.

ASBESTOS: Value of asbestos goods produced in Canada in 1946 stood at a new high point, amounting to \$6,409,000, an increase of almost 13 per cent over the 1945 total of \$5,677,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The products included brake lining valued at \$2,060,000, boilers and pipe covering valued at \$360,000, clutch facings \$475,000, asbestos packings \$210,000, and all other products, such as asbestos gaskets, cloth, yarn, dryer felts, cements, etc., at \$3,273,000. Exports and re-exports of asbestos products amounted to \$654,000 as against \$342,000 in 1945, while the imports totalled \$2,320,000 compared with \$2,214,000.

WHEAT IN STORE: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 25 totalled 92,239,000 bushels as compared with 94,834,000 on March 18, and 110,173,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible supplies on March 25 this year comprised 89,023,000 bushels in Canadian positions and 3,216,000 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 25 amounted to 1,202,000 bushels compared with 1,078,000 in the preceding week, bringing the aggregate for the period August 1 - March 25 to 207,459,000 as compared with 261,161,000 in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ended March 25 totalled 1,371,500 bushels as compared with 2,173,600 in the corresponding week last year. Cumulative total for the period August 1 - March 25 was 82,414,400 bushels compared with 91,886,000 in the like period of 1946-47.

IRON AND STEEL: Production of steel ingots and castings in February amounted to 239,600 tons, down 17,100 tons from the January figure, but up 10,400 tons over February last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, 496,400 tons were produced compared with 479,000 in the same period of 1947.

NAVY FITNESS: The Canadian Navy at Halifax has one of the finest recreation centres in Canada. So varied in its facilities that a man could go there every night for two weeks without doing the same thing twice, the Physical and Recreational Training School in the big naval establishment here not only sees to the physical fitness and social activity of sailors using the base but also renders substantial service to the community at large.

Within its walls are two gymnasiums proper, equipped for badminton, basketball, tumbling, volleyball, boxing, wrestling, fencing and other sports; a 90-foot swimming pool, six bowling alleys, five squash courts, a weight-lifting room, an oval track and a combined library and reading room. The larger gymnasium frequently is turned into a dance floor, the largest in Halifax, accommodating 3,000 persons.

Ships based at Halifax, hold regular periods of physical training there and have other periods set aside for sports and recreation. The gym is staffed by qualified instructors, all products of the school.

FARM LABOUR IMMIGRATION: The farm labour shortage will be considerably relieved in 1948 by Canada's immigration policy, according to a statement made Tuesday by Honourable Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour.

"The immigration of farm labour is being co-ordinated by the close liaison of the Federal and Provincial Governments under the Dominion-Provincial Farm Labour Agreements, and full use is being made of the farm intelligence service provided by the Dominion-Provincial Farm Labour Committees and the National Employment Service", Mr. Mitchell stated.

A total of 2,500 Dutch families will be coming to the Dominion for introduction into Canadian agriculture, and will include some 10,000 people in all. In addition to these immigrants from Holland, some 2,000 single men from Displaced Persons camps in Europe will arrive here this spring and summer to help out on farms. These are in addition to the 500 D.P. domestics who are to be placed in farm homes and about which an announcement was recently made.

There is also a considerable volume of agricultural labour from Britain which will migrate to the Dominion. The largest proportion of these new settlers, many of whom have already arrived, are being placed on farms through the cooperation of the provincial authorities and the National Employment Service. Immigrants from other countries are brought in under sponsorship programmes which are supervised by the Federal Government.

ATOMIC CONTROL BOARD ORDER: In order to carry into effect the policy with regard to private prospecting, exploration and mining for radio-active minerals announced by the Right Honourable C.D. Howe in the House of Commons on 16 March 1948, it is necessary that prospectors and others concerned be informed of and be able to communicate to others the results of analyses of ore samples and to have hand samples for the usual purposes. Accordingly, a general order has been issued under the Atomic Energy Regulations of Canada permitting these things to be done, the Atomic Energy Control Board has announced.

COL. PANGMAN RETURNS: Colonel J.E.G. Pangman, DSO, ED, has returned to Army Headquarters, Ottawa, after completing a course at the British Joint Services Staff College in the United Kingdom. He has resumed his appointment as Director of Military Operations and Plans.

PRAIRIE CENSUS: The number of gainfully occupied persons, 14 years of age and over in Saskatchewan on June 1, 1946, was 310,493, according to preliminary Prairie Census fig-

ures, a decrease of 8.7 per cent from the 1941 figure of 339,899. Total population of the province in this age group was 608,114 in 1946 compared with 647,219 five years earlier.

The number of gainfully occupied males, 14 years of age and over, was 267,259, showing a decrease of about 10 per cent since 1941, while the male population in this age group fell from 351,187 in 1941 to 327,644 in 1946, or by 6.7 per cent. The number of gainfully occupied females, 14 years of age and over, was 43,234, an increase of one per cent over 1941 even though the female population in this age group decreased by five per cent, or from 296,032 to 280,470.

At the 1946 Census, 160,733 or 60 per cent of the gainfully occupied males in Saskatchewan were engaged in agricultural occupations as compared with 184,244 or 67 per cent at the 1941 Census. This is the only large occupation group to show a marked decline since 1941. The growth in the number of females employed in clerical, commercial and financial occupations since 1941 was considerably greater than the increase shown for all gainfully occupied females, being 51 per cent for clerical and 48 per cent for commercial and financial occupations. On the other hand, there was a decrease of 8,025 or 49 per cent in domestic service occupations over the five-year period. In 1941, 16,377 females or 38 per cent of the total gainfully occupied females were employed in domestic service occupations as compared with 8,352 or 19 per cent in 1946.

While the total gainfully occupied males decreased by about 10 per cent in the five-year period, the number engaged in agricultural industries showed a decrease of 13 per cent. Males employed in manufacturing and transportation and communication industries showed an increase of 15 per cent and eight per cent, respectively.

GOLD PRODUCTION: Canadian production of gold during January totalled 274,104 fine ounces compared with 274,686 in the previous month and 234,137 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production follows, by provinces, totals for January 1947 being in brackets: Quebec, 55,108 (36,822) fine ounces; Ontario, 170,827 (160,863); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 14,229 (14,893); British Columbia, 27,457 (16,161); Yukon, 19 (376); Northwest Territories, 6,464 (4,661); Nova Scotia, nil (361) fine ounces.

WOODENWARE INDUSTRY IN 1946: There were 29 establishments in the woodenware industry engaged wholly or principally in the manufacture of articles made entirely or almost entirely of wood, such as pails and tubs, clothes pins, washboards and ladders.

REPORTING PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

STATEMENT ON TRIESTE: In the House of Commons on Monday, March 5, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, made the following statement on Trieste:-

"Mr. Speaker, I should like to answer a question put on March 22 by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) as to the intention of the Government with respect to objectives set out in the joint statement on Trieste issued on Saturday, March 20, by the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France. The first part of this declaration reads as follows:

"The governments of the United States, United Kingdom and France have proposed to the Governments of the Soviet Union and Italy that those Governments join in agreement on an additional protocol to the treaty of peace with Italy which would place the free territory of Trieste once more under Italian sovereignty.

"In his address before the plenary session of the Paris conference on August 2, 1946, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) said,

"Our concern as a nation is to see that, as far as we can help to make them so, the peace treaties will be based upon broad and enduring principles of justice and equity. Canada seeks no territory, no reparations, no special concessions of any kind, but we do seek to build a lasting peace.

"On October 8, 1946, the head of the Canadian delegation, the Hon. Brooke Claxton, speaking before the plenary conference, stated with reference to the statute of Trieste:

"The compromise for which the large majority of the commission eventually voted followed the lines laid down by the council of foreign ministers. The Canadian delegation supported the creation of the free territory of Trieste in the hope that it will possess genuine independence under the authority of the United Nations. This hope, however, is based upon the belief that in the last resort Yugoslavia, which was in the forefront in the war against the axis forces, will find it possible to play a leading role in supporting a pacific and progressive solution of this most difficult aspect of the Italian settlement.

"This hope has not been realized. In reply to the question of the hon. member for Peel, therefore, I wish to state that it is the intention of the Canadian Government to support the proposal of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France to return the free territory of Trieste to Italy by revision of the peace treaty with Italy."

GOLD OUTPUT SUBSIDY: The Governments legislation providing for the payment of subsidies on increased gold production received second reading in the House of Commons Tuesday. During the course of a detailed explanation,

the Minister of Finance spoke in part as follows:-

"I do not need to assure the house that, so far as Canada is concerned, there is not very much danger in the contingency referred to by the Council (the National Advisory Council of the United States Government) namely, that we shall largely stimulate the production of gold as the result of these subsidies. It is true that the bonus payments we are providing for should lead to some increase in production--I hope they will--but we are not under any illusion that the increased production for this reason alone will be of such magnitude as to become a major factor in the solution of our immediate exchange problems. Any contribution which it makes will, of course, be most helpful, but unfortunately there are other important factors at work which, unless conditions change, will be bound to limit the size of that contribution. I refer particularly to the shortage of labour and the mounting production costs which have been referred to by a number of speakers who have taken part in this debate today.

FREIGHT RATES ISSUE: The Minister of Transport, Hon. Lionel Chevrier, in the House of Commons Wednesday, announced that the Government will not interfere with the effective date of the order of the Board of Transport Commissioners authorizing a general advance in freight rates, but will direct that a thorough investigation of the railway rate structure be made. M.J. Coldwell, CCF leader, moved an amendment which would censure the Government for failure to defer the increases. Debate will continue.

Mr. Chevrier's statement was as follows:-

"The Government has reviewed the petition from the Transportation Commission of the Maritime Board of Trade representing *inter alia* the Governments of the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and representations made on behalf of the Governments of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia and other interested persons and organizations to vary Order No. 70425 of the Board of Transport Commissioners by providing that tariff schedules published and filed under the provisions of this Order be not effective until at least 30 days from the date thereof.

"After careful consideration of these representations, and, without prejudice to any appeal, the Government has decided that it should not interfere with the effective date of the Board's Order.

"The Government has taken into consideration the fact that no general investigation of freight rates has been made in Canada since that conducted in 1925 by the Board of Railway Commissioners. In the circumstances, the Government has decided it would be in the public

interest to have the Board of Transport Commissioners make a thorough investigation of the rate structure of railways and railway companies which are under the jurisdiction of Parliament, with a view to the establishment of a fair and reasonable rate structure which will, under substantially similar circumstances and conditions, be equal in its application to all persons and localities so as to permit the freest possible exchange of commodities between the various provinces and territories of Canada and the extension of Canadian trade, both foreign and domestic, having due regard to the needs of agriculture and other basic industries. This investigation will be subject, of course, to the statutory provisions affecting freight rates known as the Maritime Freight Rates Act and the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement."

DBS SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:

	April 1	March 25	March 4
	(1935-39=100)		
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX			
(100 common Stocks)	105.5	103.4	101.4
76 Industrials....	100.2	98.0	95.6
16 Utilities.....	112.4	109.2	107.8
8 Banks.....	125.1	126.0	127.7
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX			
(30 Stocks).....	81.0	80.7	84.5
25 Golds.....	67.3	68.2	74.3
5 Base Metals....	107.4	104.6	103.1

PARIS CONFERENCE: The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced Wednesday that approval has been given to Canadian representation at the Sixth Decennial Conference for the Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death, to be held in Paris from April 25 to April 30, 1948. The Canadian delegation will be as follows:

SENIOR DELEGATE:

Dr. F. S. Burke, to represent the Department of National Health and Welfare and other medical services in the Government of Canada.

DELEGATES:

Dr. J. A. Melanson, of the Department of Health, Province of New Brunswick, to represent the provinces.

Dr. John Wyllie, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Queen's University, to represent the national private schools and the schools of public health.

Mr. J. T. Marshall, to represent the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

TECHNICAL ADVISER:

Miss Winnifred O'Brien, R.N., Medical Classification Section, Division of Social Welfare Statistics, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

This Sixth Decennial Conference which will be attended by representatives of most of the nations of the world will be the culmination of the statistical study of diseases and causes of death which has now been in progress for more than a century. The accurate study of the incidence of diseases and of the causes of death is dependent upon the use of a uniform classification. Attempts to establish a uniform classification have been made at various International Statistical Congresses since 1853; and the most recent revision of the International Lists of Causes of Death dates from 1938 when for the fifth time revision was made by international agreement.

As a consequence of agreements which will probably be reached in Paris toward the end of this month, there will undoubtedly result a great improvement in the international comparability of illness statistics, and a more refined comparison of mortality with morbidity will be possible. Among the subjects to be discussed at the forthcoming Revision Conference will be the following:

- Medical certification;
- Joint cause problem;
- Structure of the detailed list of International List of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death;
- Structure and uses of intermediate and abridged lists;
- Definitions of stillbirth, abortion and immaturity;
- Size of age groups by which data should be tabulated;
- Methods of standardizing rates;
- Residence allocation;
- Technical machinery for future revision of the International Classification.

It is thought that as a result of the forthcoming Conference in Paris, no further international conferences on a large scale will be necessary. Revision of the lists, as modification becomes necessary, will likely be henceforth one of the continuing responsibilities of the World Health Organization of the United Nations which is to meet in assembly for the first time in Geneva in June of this year.

EMPLOYMENT LEVEL: There was a pronounced contraction in industrial employment throughout Canada at the beginning of February. The 18,560 leading employers in the eight major industrial divisions furnishing returns to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics had a working force of 1,955,825 men and women as compared with 2,002,819 at the first of January, a decline of almost 47,000 persons, or 2.3 per cent. The index number of employment, based on the 1926 average as 100, declined from 193.7 at the first of January, 1948, to 189.2 at February 1, as compared with 180.7 at the same date a year ago.

The weekly salaries and wages distributed at February 1 by these firms totalled \$75,-

627,000, which was four per cent greater than their disbursements of \$72,655,000 in the holiday week of January 1. Average weekly earnings, in the eight leading industries was \$38.67 as compared with \$36.28 a month earlier and \$35.03 at February 1 last year.

The decrease in the number employed was due in part to seasonal causes, in part to the industrial dispute in the western coal fields, in part to shortage of gas brought about by unusually inclement weather, and in part to other factors. Manufacturing as a whole showed decidedly less-than-normal recovery from the year-end losses in employment reflected in the statistics of the preceding monthly survey; within this division, the iron and steel group was particularly affected by the fuel situation. In many cases, however, the lay-offs in that industry were not of long duration.

Seasonal curtailment on a large scale was indicated in employment in trade. Logging, construction and transportation also released substantial numbers of workers, although the percentage losses were much smaller than those in retail trade. The declines in the last two industries were seasonal, while that in logging was at variance with the trend indicated at February 1 in 17 of the 27 preceding years for which data are available.

The strike of western coal miners had an especially serious effect upon the situation in the three most westerly provinces, and decidedly lowered the level of employment in mining as a whole throughout the Dominion. Reductions on a relatively small scale were indicated in hotels and restaurants, while communications, laundries and dry-cleaning establishments showed moderate improvement.

RADIO SALES LOWER: Sales of radio receiving sets by Canadian producers were sharply lower in January, totalling 39,046 units compared with 66,041 in the corresponding month last year, a decline of 41 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Imports and exports of radios also were reduced, the former falling from 3,749 units in January last year to 288, and the latter from 8,338 units to 1,394.

105 ARE HONORED: Wartime decorations and awards for gallantry in action, and for outstanding services in positions of great responsibility, were presented at a Government House investiture in Ottawa Thursday afternoon.

One hundred and five persons, representing Army, Navy and Air Force, and including one Women's Division officer, RCAF, and one Warrant Officer, Army, as well as a number of civilians, received their medals from the hands of His Excellency the Governor-General.

Seven Army officers, all Major Generals;

one Naval officer, and Engineer Rear Admiral; and three RCAF officers, all Air Vice-Marshals, received their CBS (Companion of the Order of the Bath).

Forty-eight officers, 28 Army, 4 Navy and 16 Air Force, received their CBEs (Commander of the Order of the British Empire).

Nineteen Army officers, including one Major-General and one Brigadier, received the DSO (Distinguished Service Order).

One senior Air Force officer received both the CBE and the AFC (Air Force Cross), the latter for exceptional skill as a pilot in situations of great hazard.

The MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) was presented to a Wing Officer of the RCAF, Women's Division, for distinguished services overseas.

A Warrant Officer of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals received the British Empire Medal for outstanding services.

Mr. D. C. Coleman, Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal, received the CMG (Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George).

The British Empire Medal (civil) was presented to fifteen men and women of Ottawa whose award of this decoration was first announced on the civil list in July 1946.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES SESSION: The first session of the Chemical Industries Committee of the International Labour Organization was opened in Paris Wednesday according to an announcement made by Honourable Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour. This session will sit until April 17.

The Committee will consider the problems of the Chemical Industries in the light of recent events and changes, and, the conditions of labour and the organization of Industrial Relations in these industries.

This is the eighth standing Committee set up by the I.L.O. to deal with problems of most of the important world industries. There are six Canadian representatives on the Committee, two representing the Government, two the employers and two the workers. Representing the Government are R. W. Crumb, Industrial Relations Branch, Department of Labour, Toronto; Stanislas Picard, B.Sc. (Chemical Eng.), Unemployment Insurance Commission, Quebec City; representing the employers are J. D. Converse, of Montreal, and R. F. Cummings, of Shawinigan Falls, P.Q.; the workers are represented by Silby Barrett, Canadian Congress of Labour, Toronto, Ont.; and George Pay, Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, Niagara Falls, Ont.

In addition to the Dominion, the following countries have representatives on the Chemical Industries Committee; the United States, Belgium, Brazil, China, France, the United Kingdom, India, Italy, Mexico, Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

ATOMIC CONTROL: At its 43rd meeting, the working committee of the Atomic Energy Commission adopted Monday a joint resolution submitted by the representatives of Canada, China, France and the United Kingdom which reads as follows:

"The working committee,

"Having examined in detail and as a whole the Soviet proposals of June 11, 1947 and the elaborations thereon, and in view of the conclusions set out in the preceding paragraphs,

"Finds that the Soviet proposals ignore the existing technical knowledge of the problem of atomic energy control, do not provide an adequate basis for the effective international control of atomic energy and the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons, and therefore, do not conform to the terms of reference of the Atomic Energy Commission.

"The working committee concludes that no useful purpose can be served by further discussion of these proposals in the working committee."

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-2, reported the U.N. Press Division. The two dissenting votes were cast by the Ukraine and the U.S.S.R. The "conclusions set out in the preceding paragraphs," in the text of the preamble of the resolution, refer to the statement of the four nations on the Soviet proposals made in the name of these countries by Richard Miles of the United Kingdom at the last meeting of the working committee.

Andrei A. Gromyko of the U.S.S.R. made a long and detailed statement. The U.S. delegation and its supporters had always stressed the importance of international atomic inspection, Mr. Gromyko said, according to the U.N. Press Division report: But, now, the positions had changed with the Soviet delegation trying to convince the U.S. delegation and others that international inspection was a very important measure, and the U.S. and others, on the other hand, declaring that inspection was not so important and that only together with other measures could inspection be considered as insuring effective control.

The two most serious defects of the joint statement, he said, were:

- (1) the mention only in passing of the prohibition convention. On this matter, the authors of the statement had a "very poor vocabulary" and did not produce any argument at all;
- (2) the statement overlooked entirely that one should speak of control not in terms of space but of time. The Soviet proposal in this field submitted a long time ago called for international control and inspection applied at once and simultaneously on all sources of raw materials and plants after the conclusion of the convention.

The joint statement, Mr. Gromyko concluded, was an additional sign that the U.S. delegation and the delegations supporting the U.S. had decided not to try again seriously to reach agreement. The results would be obviously harmful for the United Nations and the full responsibility for this would be with those delegations who had created this situation.

General A.G.L. McNaughton of Canada expressed "very sincere disappointment" at Mr. Gromyko's attitude towards the joint statement, which General McNaughton said, was the result of a most careful, objective and factual study and whose every conclusion was well founded. In essence, the statement was flat rejection, not supported by arguments which would have been justified by the care with which this statement had been drafted, reported the U.N. Press Division.

The working committee adjourned without setting a date for a new meeting.

CANADIAN AMENDMENT: Meeting for the first time since March 8, the working committee of the Commission for Conventional Armaments continued on Tuesday discussion of the United Kingdom draft resolution on the principles governing the formulation of practical proposals for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces, the U.N. Press Bureau reported.

Amendments to the U.K. resolution were submitted by the United States, Canada, and Columbia. The U.S. and Canadian amendments were accepted by Richard Miles of the United Kingdom. Mr. Miles reserved his attitude on the Colombian amendment. Suggestions for drafting changes in the U.S. amendment were made by the representative of China.

The discussion is to continue at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13.

General A.G.L. McNaughton of Canada submitted an amendment to reword paragraph 5 (c) of the U.K. resolution to read as follows:

"It (an adequate system of safeguards which should be included in a system for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces) causes the minimum interference with and imposes the minimum burdens on any aspect of the life of individual nations".

The original U.K. wording was "economic and industrial life."

VOICE OF THE NORTH: Twenty-five years after the opening of the Dawson City signal Station, one of Canada's first two far north message centres, another milepost in sub-arctic communications was passed by members of the Canadian Army, it was announced by Western Command at Edmonton. After months of preparation Royal Canadian Corps of Signals personnel in the Yukon Territories town carried out the first official radio broadcast of station CFYT.