



CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 4 No. 29

May 27, 1949

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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

ACREAGE INTENTIONS: Canadian farmers will seed 3,000,000 more acres to spring wheat this year than last, making a total of just under 27,000,000 acres seeded to wheat for harvest in 1949; the Bureau of Statistics estimates on the basis of intentions indicated at April 30. At the same time an increase of over a half-million acres in summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces is anticipated, bringing the total summerfallow to 20,600,000 acres.

Decreases are looked for in Canada's other major grain crops. Oats are expected to be down four per cent from last year to 10,800,000 acres and barley down seven per cent to 6,000,000. Extremely sharp declines will occur in seedings of rye and flaxseed, the extent of the change from last year in these two crops being 43 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively. The acreage to be seeded to potatoes this year is five per cent below the 1948 level.

Intended wheat seedings in the Prairie Provinces are estimated at 26,000,000 acres, up 3,000,000 acres from the 1948 level of 23,000,000. Ontario's wheat acreage for harvest in 1949 is currently placed at 762,800 acres, a decline of 16 per cent from the 1948 harvested area. Little change from 1948 is anticipated in the remaining provinces where wheat is a relatively minor crop. Fall wheat has been seeded to some extent in Alberta and Saskatchewan in recent years but official

estimates on these seedings are not yet available. It is thought, however, that the total of such wheat on the Prairies is perhaps less than 300,000 acres, most of which is in Alberta. This year it is reported that poor germination and winterkill have taken a heavy toll of the winter cereals seeded in western Canada.

The anticipated increase in wheat acreage in each of the Prairie Provinces is as follows: Manitoba 722,000 acres or 30 per cent; Saskatchewan 1,338,000 or nine per cent; and Alberta 939,000 or 15 per cent. A western wheat acreage of the magnitude indicated (26,000,000 acres) will, if realized, substantially exceed the 1940-48 average of 22,300,000 and would be only about six per cent below the record level of 1940 when 27,800,000 acres were seeded to wheat in the Prairie Provinces.

For Canada as a whole, farmers intend to seed 10,800,000 acres to oats as compared with 11,200,000 in 1948, the decline being wholly accounted for in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta with either no change or modest increases expected in all other provinces.

The intended barley acreage for all Canada is estimated at 6,000,000 acres as compared with 6,500,000 last year. Declines are anticipated in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia with increases occurring quite generally from Manitoba eastward. While the anticipated barley sowing of 5,600,000 acres in

FOREST FIRE-FIGHTING COSTS: Canada's forest fire-fighting costs in 1948, amounting to more than 2½ million dollars, were the highest on record. In terms of measurable damage combined with fire-fighting cost, the loss from forest fires in 1948 was exceeded only by that of the 1941 fire season during the 20-year period for which Canada-wide records of forest fires have been compiled, according to information released on May 17 by the acting Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Mackinnon. The federal forest-fire statistics are prepared annually from information supplied by all provincial and federal forest-fire protection agencies in Canada.

Although the number of forest fires, 5,368, was about normal, the total area burned amounted to some 3,185,000 acres, representing an increase of 70 per cent over the average burned acreage for the previous ten years. Exceptionally dry weather over wide areas in the Great Lakes region and in central Canada during the early summer and autumn months contributed to the damage sustained.

The amount of merchantable timber on lands burned over in 1948 was equal to that used by all the pulp and paper mills in Canada for a 7½ month period, based on the average mill consumption from 1937 to 1946. Damage to timber, young growth and other property was estimated at \$5,882,000; this, however, evaluates the wood only at prevailing stumpage rates and takes no account of other losses sustained by the wood-using industries. Moreover, the figure makes no provision for damage to soil and site quality, streamflow regulation, wild life, or recreational and tourist values, none of which can be reliably appraised in terms of dollars.

Eighteen per cent of all the fires were attributed to lightning, the remaining 82 per cent being man-made and therefore preventable. Only 2 per cent resulted from deliberate incendiarism. Forty per cent of the fires were started by careless campers and smokers--an increase of 4 per cent over the previous ten-year average. Railways and settlers were the other major causes.

The above figures do not include the Yukon and Northwest Territories, in which 80 fires were reported with a total area of 121,000 acres.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES: When the family allowance cheques for May are issued, total payments since this program began to operate three years and 11 months ago will pass the one billion dollar mark.

This was announced on May 20 by the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, who pointed out that family allowance payments are now running at \$23,600,000 per month.

With the inclusion of 122,400 children from the new Province of Newfoundland, the total number of children now receiving family allowances has passed the 4,000,000 mark.

Family allowance payments in Newfoundland in April totalled \$703,856, Mr. Martin stated, and went to 45,142 families. This means an average allowance of \$15.59 per family--the highest in Canada. Nearest to the Newfoundland average is New Brunswick with \$14.96 per family.

WORLD WHOLESALE PRICES: Wholesale prices continued to move upward in many countries during the second half of 1948, although peak levels in others appears to have been reached or passed, according to the semi-annual report on world price movements by the Bureau of Statistics. Buyers' markets were developing in some of the major cereal products, and supply conditions eased also in a few other commodities such as rubber, tea, coffee and spices, towards the end of the year. Currency difficulties continued to have an adverse effect upon demand for commodities important in international trade.

Declines in cost-of-living series ranging from 0.2 per cent to 1.3 per cent were shown by the United States, the United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia and Norway. The United States index of the Bureau of Labour Statistics recorded a decrease in October, and continued downward, showing a net decline for the six months of 0.2 per cent. In the United Kingdom, the cost-of-living index showed a drop for July. Part of the loss was regained later, but the December level was 0.9 per cent below the June peak.

Cost-of-living advances for other countries, in many instances, were at less than half the rate shown for the second half of 1947. Increases, with a few exceptions, ranged within the limits of one per cent and four per cent. The Netherlands index of living costs in six municipalities recorded a net gain of 3.4 per cent between June and December; a rise of four per cent in November and December followed the announcement of a 40 per cent cut in food subsidies.

WHOLESALE INDEX

The United States Bureau of Labour general wholesale index touched a post-war peak of 169.5 for August, but receded to 162.3 for December, to show a net decrease from June to December of 2.3 per cent. The Board of Trade wholesale price index for the United Kingdom averaged 0.6 per cent lower in December than in June, although still 8.5 per cent above December, 1947. The Canadian wholesale price index reached 159.7 for November, the highest level since August, 1920. This appeared to mark a turning point. The wholesale price index for Australia advanced seven per cent between June and December.

In France, the rate of increase in wholesale price levels was reduced to less than half that of the first six months of 1948. The rise of 16.6 per cent, while still high, compared

with 38.9 per cent for the preceding six months, and 34.6 per cent for the second half of 1947. The index of wholesale prices in Italy was 10.8 per cent higher in December than in June. This was a reversal of the trend in the first half of the year, when a decline of 6.9 per cent occurred. Efforts of the Chinese Nationalist Government to stabilize the Yuan haven't halted sharp price increases, and the index of wholesale prices for Shanghai, on the base August 19, 1948=100, stood at 3,583.7 for December.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: If it proves nothing else the Canadian International Trade Fair will prove that people of different towns, cities and villages from all over the globe have a common denominator--trade. From May 30 to June 10, the Trade Fair will welcome business people from Chepstow and Stoke-on-Trent in England; Motherwell, Glasgow and Alloa, Scotland; Naples, Florence and Milan, Italy; Detroit, Nashville and Los Angeles; Honolulu; Bangkok; Shanghai and Hong Kong; Bombay; New Delhi and Singapore; Niederbronn, Paris and Lyons; Newmarket, Montreal, Vancouver and Niagara-on-the-Lake; Stockholm; Caracas and Curacao; Sao Paulo, to name only a very few, the Trade Fair authorities report.

At this meeting place of the nations there will be no discussions on war, aggression, or defence. Ordinary people with goods to sell will display them before people who need them, and the man in the street of all the cities, towns and villages they call home, will benefit from their peaceful activities.

NEW DWELLING UNITS: The number of dwelling units completed in Canada in the first three months of 1949 is estimated at 17,800, up 6,300 or 54 per cent over the same period of 1948. The increase is attributed to the unusually higher carryover at the beginning of 1949. In spite of the greatly increased completions, the amount of work in progress remains high, according to the monthly report by the Bureau of Statistics. First-quarter starts rose 26 per cent or from 6,700 a year ago to 8,400, and the number under construction was reduced from only 56,500 at January 1 to 46,900 at March 1, the latter figure comparing with 37,500 at the end of March last year.

In March, 6,400 units were completed compared with 4,100 in the corresponding month last year, while starts were made on 3,600 units compared with 3,100 a year earlier. The average length of time required to build the dwelling units completed in March was 7.9 months, the highest for any month since the beginning of 1948. In the fall of 1948, the emphasis was upon getting dwelling units started and closed in, the interior finishing being postponed until the winter months.

Number of dwelling units completed in the

first quarter of 1949 by regions, with figures for the same period of 1948 in brackets, were: Maritime Provinces, 1,160 (496); Quebec, 4,604 (2,887); Ontario, 6,396 (4,098); Prairie Provinces, 2,897 (1,899); British Columbia, 2,769 (2,189). March completions: Maritimes, 477 (158); Quebec, 1,854 (1,525); Ontario, 2,066 (1,113); Prairie Provinces, 1,248 (613); British Columbia, 731 (646).

COTC SUMMER TRAINING: This summer approximately 2050 university COTC cadets plus members of the command contingents and cadets from Royal Roads and the Royal Military College will receive up to 16 weeks training at various corps schools and military installations across Canada.

The university officer cadets, representing 24 Canadian universities, began reporting for the practical phases of their training the first week in May and groups will be joining their corps at intervals until the end of June. Candidates for commissions in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps began reporting for the first and second practical phases of their training at Camp Borden, Ont., on May 7, while the first group of third phase cadets joined the Lord Strathcona's Horse at Camp Wainwright on the same date. Cadets taking the third practical phase of their training with the Royal Canadian Dragoons began arriving at Petawawa Camp on May 14.

In the Royal Canadian Artillery, COTC training is being carried on at the Royal Canadian School of Artillery at Shilo, Man., Picton, Ont. and Esquimalt, B.C. These cadets also began arriving the first week in May. COTC members of other corps will receive their practical training at the Royal Canadian School of Signals, Kingston, Ont., the Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering at Chilliwack, B.C., the Royal Canadian School of Infantry at Camp Borden, Calgary and Valcartier, the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps School at Montreal, and the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers School at Barriefield, Ont. A number of cadets training for commissions in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and the Royal Canadian Dental Corps will serve in various military hospitals and dental clinics in addition to those attending the RCAMC and RCDC schools.

MAIL SERVICE TO CHINA: Effective immediately mail service to China is temporarily suspended, the Post Office Department announced on May 21, with the exceptions mentioned below.

Regular mail, that is all mail except parcel post, may still be sent to the provinces of Fukien, Kwangtung, and Kwangsi only.

Mail for China will therefore be accepted only for the destinations indicated.

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN MARCH

DEBIT BALANCE: Canada's total foreign trade in March was valued at \$454,900,000, showing an increase of 6.3 per cent over the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the first quarter of this year was up to \$1,330,900,000 from \$1,265,600,000 in the same period of 1948, or by five per cent.

The rise in the value of total foreign trade both for the month and quarter was due to an increase in the value of imports, domestic exports being slightly lower in both periods. In the month the value of imports rose 20 per cent and in the quarter by 13.7 per cent. Domestic exports were down five per cent in the month and two per cent in the quarter.

As a result of the rise in the value of imports and the decline in the value of domestic exports, Canada had a debit balance on her foreign trade of \$16,900,000 in March -- the first since April last year -- as compared with a favourable balance of \$33,900,000 in March, 1948. In the first quarter of this year there was a small overall debit balance

of \$600,000 as compared with a favourable balance of \$95,000,000 in the same period of 1948.

The debit balance on the month's trade with the United States was \$44,900,000 as compared with \$24,200,000 in the corresponding month last year, raising the three-month total to \$132,800,000 from \$107,900,000 in the same period of 1948. The credit balance with the United Kingdom in the month was down to \$11,300,000 from \$37,700,000 in the same month last year, and in the first quarter to \$63,200,000 from \$115,000,000.

Imports for consumption from all countries in March were valued at \$235,900,000 as compared with \$197,100,000 in the same month last year, and in the first three months at \$665,700,000 compared with \$585,300,000. March total for domestic exports was \$216,800,000 compared with \$228,400,000, and in the first quarter, \$658,800,000 compared with \$722,000,000.

Foreign commodities were re-exported in March to the value of \$2,200,000 as compared with \$2,500,000 a year ago, and in the first quarter to \$6,300,000 compared with \$8,300,000.

853,000 compared with \$48,764,000.

Imports from Europe continued in March the moderate gains of recent months, totalling \$7,541,000 as against \$4,051,000 in 1948, and aggregating \$20,105,000 for the three months compared with \$10,814,000 last year.

ARTILLERY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: The anniversary of the formation of the original Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1716 will be celebrated in Stanley Park Armories, Vancouver, on the evening of May 26. The celebration is being sponsored by the Vancouver Artillery Officers' Association.

DRIED MILK PRICE: The federal Government has authorized the Agricultural Prices Support Board to purchase dried skim milk at a price of 9.5 cents per pound for roller and 10.75 cents for spray, f.o.b. country points, up to a total expenditure of \$1,000,000, it was announced on May 21.

This will provide for the purchase of approximately 10,000,000 pounds of the dried product, which it is estimated will clear the market of accumulated surplus stocks and allow adjustment in production for the remainder of the season to meet market demand.

R.C.A.F. APPOINTMENT: Air Force Headquarters announced on May 25, the appointment of Group Captain J.B. Harvey, AFC, 37, of Winnipeg, as Senior Personnel Staff Officer of Central Air Command.

IMPORT TRADE HIGHER: Showing gains in total purchases from both Commonwealth and foreign countries and increases in seven of the nine main commodity classifications, Canada's imports for consumption during March advanced in value to \$235,900,000 as compared with \$197,100,000 in March last year, bringing the cumulative value for the first quarter of the year to \$665,700,000 as against \$585,300,000 in 1948.

Imports from Commonwealth countries in the month totalled \$43,900,000 compared with \$32,500,000 a year ago, and in the three months rose to \$115,300,000 as against \$92,600,000. Total from foreign countries rose to \$192,000,000 in the month from \$164,500,000 in 1948, and in the quarter to \$550,400,000 from \$492,700,000.

Purchases from the United Kingdom during March continued the upward trend of the two previous months this year, being valued at \$28,343,000 as against \$22,918,000 in February and \$21,601,000 in March last year. Total imports for the first quarter of the year were up to \$76,666,000 compared with \$61,062,000 a year ago.

Imports from the United States in March rose in value to \$168,952,000 compared with \$138,299,000 a year earlier, making the cumulative total for the first quarter \$482,570,000 as against \$425,122,000 last year.

As in January and February, imports from the Latin American countries as a whole declined, falling to \$13,981,000 compared with \$19,136,000 in March, 1948, the total value for the first three months being down to \$41,-

(Continued from P.1)

the Prairie Provinces are lower than in any year since 1941, they are well above the 1931-39 average of 3,300,000. The estimated oats acreage in the Prairie Provinces, however, is the lowest since 1915.

The intended flaxseed sowings of less than half a million acres represented a decrease of 75 per cent from the 1948 acreage of 1,900,000. The greatest decrease is expected in Manitoba where acreage is expected to drop by 80 per cent.

The area of fall rye for harvest in 1949 is placed at 900,000 acres, a decrease of 45 per cent from last year's harvested acreage. Spring rye seeding intentions are down 35 per cent from the 1948 acreage level. For all rye the indicated acreage is 1,200,000 acres, a decrease of 43 per cent from last year.

U.S.--CANADA COMMITTEE MEETS: The Department of External Affairs announced on May 25 that the first meeting of the Joint United States-Canada Industrial Mobilization Committee will be held in Washington on June 1. The members of this Committee as previously announced after the exchange of notes between representatives of the two Governments on April 12 are:

- Mr. Harry J. Carmichael, C.M.G., Chairman, Industrial Defence Board of Canada
- Mr. Sydney Pierce, O.B.E., Associate Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Canada
- Dr. John R. Steelman, Acting Chairman, National Security Resources Board of the United States
- Mr. Donald F. Carpenter, Chairman, Munitions Board of the United States.

CANAL TRAFFIC UP: Reflecting increased movements of soft coal, iron ores, other ores, gasoline, barley and flaxseed, the tonnage of all freight passing through the Canadian canal systems during 1948 reached 23,559,313 tons, a gain of 2,045,374 tons or 9.5 per cent above the volume recorded in the 1947 season. Last year's tonnage has been exceeded only by the 24,636,462 tons attained in 1938, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

There were 22,643 passages of vessels through the canals during the year compared with 20,874 in 1947, while the net registered tonnage of the vessels was 23,943,307, an increase of 1,533,348 tons. The Canadian locks at the Sault were in use for 244 days, six more than in 1947, while the Welland Ship Canal was open one day more at 272 days, and the St. Lawrence three days less with 234 days.

Passengers on vessels passing at Sault Ste. Marie totalled 63,707 compared with 53,782 in 1947. The Welland Ship canal reported 5,790 passengers against 5,273 in 1947, while the St. Lawrence had 12,417 compared with 13,430 one year earlier. Thousands of pleasure craft were also locked through the canals.

The volume of traffic moving to and from

Lake Superior and Montreal or beyond totalled 451,961 tons during 1948. Traffic using the St. Lawrence only aggregated 4,190,930 tons. That passing through the Welland Ship canal only reached 7,311,821 tons, while the grand total for this canal was 13,373,721 tons, 2,466,753 tons of which used the St. Lawrence and Welland Ship systems, 451,961 tons the St. Lawrence Welland Ship and Sault Ste. Marie, and 3,142,786 tons the Sault Ste. Marie and Welland Ship.

In combination with the four American locks at Sault Ste. Marie, which form an essential part of the Great Lakes system, the grand total of all canal freight traffic during 1948, including traffic using more than one canal, was 137,082,901 tons compared with 130,273,579 tons in 1947, an increase of 6,809,322 tons or 5.2 per cent.

Of the 23,559,313 tons of freight passing through Canadian canals during the year, 87.2 per cent or 20,533,377 tons was carried in Canadian bottoms, and in the Welland Ship canal 79 per cent was in Canadian vessels.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: Imagine a department store selling everything from costume jewellery and pocket combs to diesel engines and dockside cranes, gathered from 35 different countries throughout the world and spread out on counters and in display groups along a distance of four miles. That in effect is what the Canadian International Trade Fair will resemble most on opening day, May 30, the Trade Fair authorities report. The goods are grouped into 21 trade classifications so that they may be compared and inspected without the potential customers performing a marathon tour.

Like any self respecting department store the Trade Fair closes its door each evening to primp and preen for the morrow's customers. This is carried out to the tune of shuffling feet, swishing brooms, flicking dusters and the whirr of polishing machines, wielded by some 75 expert cleaners who sweep, polish, dust and gather the debris up until six a.m. when it is collected, approximately six truckloads per day, and disposed of by the City garbage collectors. An operation approximately like giving a thorough once-over to 3,333 Canadian living rooms, continues the press release.

So that the merchants who own the millions of dollars worth of goods and produce on display at the Trade Fair may sleep nights without worrying over their openly-displayed merchandise, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, will keep a watchful and expert eye on things.

A delegation of Shanghai merchants have arrived in Toronto to display their products at the Trade Fair. Despite the Civil war raging in China they have advised that they were able to get 36 cases of their wares shipped and arrange their visas and passages.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: Time loss due to work stoppages arising out of industrial disputes during April was little changed from the previous month, according to the monthly summary of strikes and lockouts issued by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

Three strikes accounted for more than 85 per cent of the total workers involved in work stoppages and resulted in more than 93 per cent of the total time loss--asbestos miners and millworkers at various centres in Quebec, bakery workers in Winnipeg and Selkirk, Manitoba, and seamen in Canadian and foreign ports.

Preliminary figures for April, 1949, showed 18 strikes and lockouts in existence, involving 7,877 workers, with a time loss of 139,500 man-working days, as compared with 10 in March, 1949, with 5,978 workers involved and a time loss of 135,725 days. In April, 1948, there were 18 strikes involving 4,678 workers with a time loss of 51,269 days.

Of the 18 strikes which were in existence for varying periods during April, nine were in effect prior to the first of the month. Of these nine, six were terminated by the end of the month, and of the nine which began in April, four had been terminated by May 1. Thus, there were eight work stoppages still in effect at the beginning of May, one less than the number in effect at the beginning of April.

CABBAGE IMPORTS: Effective May 26 and until further notice, cabbage may not be imported under open general permit into the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the Emergency Import Control Division of the Department of Finance announced on May 25.

This does not apply, however, to cabbage that was actually in transit to a consignee in Canada on May 25.

In making this announcement it was explained that the domestic crop is above average and is expected to be more than sufficient to meet the needs in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

If serious local shortages develop in any part of Ontario and Quebec, special permits for imports will be considered.

Cabbage imports will remain under open general permit throughout the remainder of Canada.

MEMORIAL TO INDIAN DEAD: A memorial to 22 Six Nations and Mississauga Indians who lost their lives on active service during World War II will be unveiled at Ohsweken, Ontario, on Sunday, May 29, by His Excellency, the Governor General, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, it was announced on May 26 by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

Accompanied by Her Excellency, Lady Alexander, and members of his staff, the Governor General will be met at Brantford by Lt. Col. E.P. Randle, Indian Superintendent. Col.

Gibson, Major D.M. MacKay, Director of the Indian Affairs Branch, and other officials will be present.

Brigadier O.M. Martin, of Toronto, an enfranchised Indian of the Six Nations Band, will be one of the principal guest-speakers.

Chief Leonard Staats, of the Six Nations Band, Chief Sylvester Laforme, of the Mississaguas, and members of the Indian Councils, with their wives, will welcome the Governor General outside the Council House, adjacent to the War Memorial, prior to the ceremony. Following the unveiling, Viscount Alexander will take the salute in a march past of Indian war veterans. Their Excellencies will sign the visitors' book in the Council Chamber, and William F. Powless, Secretary of the Six Nations Council for the last 25 years and a veteran of the First Great War, will read the traditional loyal address. Chief Staats will then present it to the Governor General.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS: Employment in Canada's major industrial divisions at the beginning of April was down from the March level, but higher than a year ago. Aggregate payrolls were slightly lower than at March 1, but 12 per cent above last year, while average weekly earnings were up slightly from March 1 and 11 per cent above April 1 last year.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, the advance index of employment in the eight leading industries, on the base 1926=100, was 187.6 on April 1 this year as compared with 188.8 at March 1, and 186.6 at April 1, 1948. Average weekly earnings amounted to \$43.31 compared with \$43.27 a month earlier, and \$39.03 a year ago.

Heightened industrial employment as compared with a month earlier was reported in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Improvement in the weather was mainly responsible for a considerable increase in employment in British Columbia, where the situation a month earlier had been seriously affected by shortage of power and other conditions associated with unfavourable weather conditions.

The trend in employment was downward in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba; seasonal curtailment in logging operations was the most important factor in the reductions in the first three of these provinces. The moderate losses in Manitoba were largely brought about by industrial disputes, together with a shrinkage in employment in transportation.

In manufacturing, the advance index of employment, at 203.1, was insignificantly higher than the March 1 figure of 203.0, and slightly exceeded the index of 202.0 recorded at April 1, 1948.