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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

IN PARLIAMENT: Parliament is in recess over the holidays, the House of Commons adjourning till Jan. 26, the Senate till Jan. 27. Before adjournment, the two Houses adopted addresses to continue the Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947, and the Agricultural Products Act in force till March 31, 1948. Normally, they would expire Dec. 31. Under the first Act, remaining wartime emergency controls are imposed. The second has to do with powers under which British food contracts are implemented.

Statements were made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on arms shipment to China and on arrangements for a Japanese peace conference (P. 4-6).

BUSINESS AS YEAR ENDS: Although 1947 has witnessed a degree of business activity unprecedented in Canada's peacetime history, elements of abnormality are more apparent as the year ends than when it began, says the Bank of Montreal current business summary. The summary continues:--

An enlarging flow of income, a diminished rate of saving and increased borrowing have combined to produce record domestic expenditures for capital and consumer goods. A continuing strong demand for Canadian products abroad, financed in part by credit, has resulted in new peacetime marks for export trade.

Industry, with much less interruption from labour disputes than last year, has been operating close to capacity, and unemployment has probably been as near the irreducible minimum as is practically possible. Physical volume of industrial production, according to the official index, has to latest report exceeded the 1946 level by nearly 10% and has been 75% greater than the average of the years 1935-39. Agricultural output, while in lower figures than last year, has for the most part been reasonably satisfactory.

But in aggregate, combined internal and external demand for Canadian goods and services has been running ahead of available supplies, and with the progressive removal of price controls and subsidies, the readjustment to fundamental market conditions has involved an uninterrupted rise in prices and living costs. A record inflow of imports, predominantly from the United States, has helped to satisfy domestic demand and thus to moderate inflationary pressures, but at the cost of depleting this country's U.S. dollar reserves. Pressing problems arising both from Canada's shortage of U.S. dollars and from other countries' lack of Canadian and U.S. dollars emphasize the Dominion's dependence on restoration of conditions under which multilateral trade will once more be possible.

WEATHER SHIP'S ORDEAL

26-DAY VIGIL COMPLETED: Having encountered hurricane winds and severe North Atlantic weather conditions the Canadian weather ship H.M.C.S. "St. Stephen" has completed her first tour. She occupied position "Eaker" situated at the entrance to Davis Strait midway between the southern tip of Greenland and Labrador.

During her 26-day vigil, the "St. Stephen" fulfilled two of her three basic purposes to which she was assigned. The first of these was the continued weather observations despite adverse conditions, secondly, the continual operation of a beacon service for trans-atlantic aircraft. Ever on the alert, but not called upon for action, was the air-sea rescue unit.

L. J. Sobiski, of Toronto, meteorological services technical adviser of the Department of Transport, stated that winds of 50 miles per hour were almost continuous, and at times reached a velocity of 70 miles per hour. In order to release the huge weather balloons for weather observations in the stratosphere, it was necessary for Sobiski to be securely fastened by a stout rope to prevent his being blown overboard during the balloon launchings. As a result of this first experience, recommendations towards improving the facilities for releasing these six-foot diameter balloons are being studied.

WIND REPORTS AT 47000 FEET

Officials of the Department of Transport weather service have indicated their complete satisfaction with the technical results obtained on this first voyage on the weather ship, the "St. Stephen". The surface reports transmitted by the nautical weathermen permitted them to pinpoint accurately the location of storms which would have been subjected to guesswork.

Upper wind reports were obtained by radar up to heights of 47000 feet while temperatures were measured up to 65000 feet. For these noteworthy results instruments designed and manufactured in Canada were used.

The preliminary upper air reports from this initial venture indicate that trans-ocean aircraft may profitably use the northern route to maintain schedules, the aircraft being directed to the helping facilities of the easterly winds on Europe-Canada bound trips.

Officials of the Meteorological Service of the Department of Transport were prominently identified with the creation of this international system of weather reporting, which was put into operation after studies made by the Meteorological Committee of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

It was this ICAO Meteorological Committee which recommended the implementation of the plans for the "floating" observation station system as a supplement and augmentation of the weather reporting stations existing on land, in addition to reports which are provided by ships at sea.

EASTERN ARCTIC PATROL

NEW VESSEL WITH HELICOPTER: A contract has been awarded to Davie Shipbuilding and Repairing Company Limited of Lauzon, Levis, Quebec, for construction of a new ship for the Canadian Government's Eastern Arctic Patrol Service. Their tender was the lowest of several received. The contract calls for completion and delivery of the ship in time for use in the 1949 Eastern Arctic Patrol.

One of the special features of the navigational facilities of the new ship will be the provision for carrying a helicopter which would be used for scouting ice conditions ahead and for landing urgently needed supplies. Other aids to navigation provided will include radar, echo sounding and direction finder equipment as well as gyro compasses.

Of streamlined design the vessel will be heavily reinforced to withstand the heavy ice which may be encountered in northern waters. In view of shallow harbourage available in the northern outposts the size of the vessel has had to be restricted to draw only 18 feet on which draft the ship will carry 2615 deadweight tons. Its principal dimensions are: length between perpendiculars 276 feet; moulded breadth 50 feet and moulded depth 26 feet. Accommodation will be provided for 58 passengers, 58 crew members and also 30 Eskimos. The holds will provide 107,000 cubic feet of space for the carriage of dry cargo and 3,000 cubic feet of refrigerated space for perishables.

EXCEPTIONALLY POWERFUL

The new ship will be exceptionally powerful, being fitted with twin "Skinner marine uniflow" steam engines which will give it a cruising range of 10,000 nautical miles. Steam will be furnished by two oil-fired water tube boilers at a working pressure of 220 pounds per square inch. The hull will be of mild steel and all-welded construction and special insulation will be used throughout the ship to withstand the rigours of the Arctic temperature. One of the mechanical features are the powerful cranes with which the vessel will be equipped to facilitate loading and unloading and in laying or lifting buoys and other aids to navigation.

Plans call for a most modern equipped hospital being provided and consisting of an examining room, operating room, sick bay, X-ray room and a dark room for developing X-ray plates. This will be staffed by medical and dental officers and will provide care and advice to both white and Eskimo patients at all ports of call.

For many years past Government officials and Government stores for the Eastern Arctic Patrol service have been carried by the R.M.S. "Nascopie" which was owned and operated by the Hudson Bay Company. More than 18 months ago it was decided that increasing activities in the Arctic necessitated a separate vessel for handling governmental work in this area. The

situation became intensified last summer when the "Nascopie" ran aground in the Hudson Strait and became a total wreck.

OPERATED BY DEPARTMENT

The new ship will be built and operated by the Department of Transport for Eastern Arctic Patrol Service during the summer months and for assisting in the servicing of departmental aids to navigation in the lower St. Lawrence and off the Atlantic Coast during the rest of the year. She will also be used as an escort ship on the St. Lawrence for incoming shipping in the early spring and outgoing vessels in the winter.

On her yearly voyages to Arctic waters the ship will operate under the directions of the Superintendent of the Eastern Arctic of the Department of Mines and Resources. Besides this official and his staff, the vessel will carry administrative personnel as well as replacements for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments, northern hospitals, Department of Transport meteorological and radio stations and other governmental posts. Supplies and equipment for these different northern outposts will also be carried.

Design plans for the new vessel were made by Messrs. Gorman and Milne, Naval Architects and Marine Engineers of Montreal, incorporating suggestions made by governmental officials and experienced Arctic navigators. F. A. Willsher, Chairman of the Board of Steamship Inspection, has been appointed Owners Representative, charged with the supervision of construction of the new vessel which will be required to meet the requirements of Lloyds Register of Shipping and of the requirements of the Board of Steamship Inspection.

PAY INCREASES ANNOUNCED

CIVIL SERVICE AND ARMED FORCES: Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced in the House of Commons Dec. 19 increases in the rate of pay of members of the civil service, the armed forces, rates of veterans pensions and war veterans allowances. The increases are estimated to involve an initial, additional annual expenditure of approximately \$25,000,000.

The Prime Minister said: The government has for some time been giving careful consideration to the rates of pay of members of the civil service and the armed forces, and the rates of veterans' pensions and war veterans allowances. It was recognized that account should be taken of increases in the general level of wages and salaries since the establishment of the existing rates. The problem is complex and difficult, and it is not yet possible to announce decisions with regard to all rates or all persons affected.

I should mention here that consideration is practically completed of the rates applicable to civil service grades such as messengers, elevator operators, caretakers, watchmen, cleaners, packers, hospital orderlies, and

canal and airport employees. The Civil Service Commission is also preparing recommendations affecting civil service grades between those now being dealt with and those already dealt with as a result of the Gordon Report. It was felt that the announcement of the decisions already reached should not be delayed and I wish, accordingly, to announce them immediately.

INCREASES RETROACTIVE

New salary scales have been approved for the clerical grades in the civil service which represent about one third in numbers of the entire service. The new scales will be effective as of October 1, 1947. Revisions of other civil service salary scales are still under consideration. Whatever related adjustments are made will also be retroactive to October 1st.

In adjusting civil service salary scales it was necessary to examine and decide on detailed and specific revisions of each individual rate. An alternative suggested was to increase all rates by a fixed percentage. It was felt that a percentage increase would not result in a schedule of rates which would be equitable. In recent years there have been changes and adjustments in certain of the rates including the incorporation of the war-time cost-of-living bonus, the revision of a substantial number of classes in order to recruit or retain employees with specialized abilities, and the changes in senior administrative classes, proposed last year by the Gordon Commission. Moreover, some new civil service classes have recently been established with rates more in accord with present conditions than the rates for older classes. All these factors had to be taken into account in making equitable adjustments at the present time.

The government gave consideration to the possibility of making the increase in the form of a cost-of-living bonus as an alternative to increasing basic salary rates. After thorough consideration, this alternative was felt to be unsatisfactory.

In establishing the new rates for clerical grades, the Government has endeavoured to place them on a comparable basis with the rates being paid by private employers for similar services, with proper allowance for differing practices in regard to security of tenure, vacations, sick leave, retirement benefits and other terms of employment. The government has, of course, had in mind the general increases that have been taking place in wage and salary levels in Canada which affect the rates that are necessary for recruiting and retaining employees with the required qualifications.

EFFECT OF THE CHANGES

Broadly speaking, the effect of the present changes, combined with the increases already made through incorporating into salary rates the cost-of-living bonus which was granted during the war, is an increase from rates

prevailing in 1939 of about \$30 a month for Grade 1 Clerks, and of about \$40 a month for higher grades, up to and including the grade of Chief Clerk.

With regard to the armed forces, the object has been to ensure that for this work of national service payments will at least be on a basis which is comparable, all things considered, with alternative employment in civilian life.

Taking into account all factors, it has been decided to put into effect increases which will average nearly 10% of the total pay and allowances of the armed forces and which will vary from about 15% in the case of privates and equivalent ranks, to about 5% in the case of senior officers. Increases in respect of pay and quarters allowances are on a graduated scale. The allowance in lieu of rations for officers and men has been increased from \$15 to \$20 for all ranks.

These increases will be retroactive to October 1, 1947, and will be subject to pension deductions and income taxes in effect now or determined from time to time.

RATE FOR DISABLED VETERANS

In the case of disabled veterans and pensioned widows, the government will introduce legislation during the present session of Parliament to amend the Pension Act in order to provide for an increase in rates of compensation. The government will recommend that the increase should be \$10 a month for totally disabled veterans, and for pensioned widows. For veterans in receipt of pensions for disabilities assessed at less than 100 per cent the government will propose proportionate increases in pensions. Increases will be made effective as of October 1st.

The government will also introduce an amendment to the War Veterans' Allowance Act to provide for a supplementary allowance to veterans in receipt of War Veterans' Allowances, and to widows in receipt of Widows' Allowances. The amendment will authorize the War Veterans' Allowance Board to grant supplementary allowances up to \$10 a month in cases of need for veterans and widows who, through age and infirmity, are unable to provide for their own maintenance. The Board will be authorized to make the supplementary allowances retroactive to October 1st, or to any subsequent date, as the circumstances of individual cases may require.

I may add that the increases here specifically set forth are estimated to involve an initial additional annual expenditure of approximately \$25,000,000.

Maj. Gen. Peärkes (P.C. Nanaimo) said that so far as veterans were concerned, the Prime Minister's statement was a terrible let-down. The pension increases were inadequate. The increase in allowances was an extension of the means test.

ARMS SHIPMENT TO CHINA

MR. ST. LAURENT'S STATEMENT: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, replied in the House of Commons, Dec. 19, to questions previously asked by Mr. Coldwell, C.C.F. Leader, regarding shipments of arms to China. Mr. Coldwell had asked under what arrangements munitions were being shipped to China, whether the shipments involved expenditure of U.S. dollars on the part of Canada and whether the shipments were in strict conformity with our obligation to promote peace in Asia and throughout the world.

Mr. St. Laurent said: The memorandum which I have had prepared states that the mutual aid agreement signed in March 1944, provided for the transfer from Canada of military supplies and other goods required by the government of China.

After the termination of hostilities in Europe consideration was given to specific items of military equipment, by then surplus to Canadian requirements, which might be made available to China, and certain orders for supplies of this type were placed by the Chinese government in accordance with their mutual aid agreement.

When the extension of a post-war credit to China was under discussion in February, 1946, it was recognized that a large part of the mutual aid grant was still unexpended, and the exchange of notes effected February 7, 1946, accordingly recorded the understanding that \$25,000,000 of the \$60,000,000 provided in the credit will be reserved for the purchase of supplies and equipment which has been requested by China from Canada as mutual aid, other items in production in Canada at September 1, 1945, which are surplus to Canadian requirements, and also certain items of used industrial equipment which China had sought to purchase from Canada, together with the cost of reconversion and completion of such equipment for Chinese use and its preparation for shipment. All subsequent shipment of military supplies to China has been pursuant to this agreement, reconversion costs, however, being required to be paid for in cash.

No expenditure of United States dollars by Canada is involved in such shipment. The government is of the opinion that such shipment does not violate any obligation which may rest upon Canada to maintain peace in Asia.

Mr. COLDWELL: I am at a loss to understand how this can be classified as mutual aid, since the mutual aid of 1944 was against the common enemy, Japan. As I understand it, mutual aid ceased in September when the war with Japan was over. We are not now "mutual aiding" in the civil war in China?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No; and when my hon. friend sees the answer he will see that is not what is stated. It is stated that because

there was a large unexpended portion of what had been agreed to deliver as mutual aid, it was agreed in an exchange of notes in February 1946 that \$25,000,000 of the \$60,000,000 credit could be applied to such items as I have indicated, which had been ordered prior to the cessation of hostilities, and which were not going to be delivered under mutual aid because hostilities had ceased. I believe my answer makes that quite clear.

JAPANESE PEACE TREATY

CANADA'S POSITION STATED: Replying to a question asked previously by Howard Green (P.C. Vancouver S.), the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, made a statement regarding arrangements for a Japanese peace conference.

Mr. St. Laurent said: There has not as yet been any definite date, site, or procedure fixed for the Japanese peace conference, although all the principal countries concerned appear to be agreed on the desirability of proceeding at an early date with the drafting of a peace treaty for Japan, with a view to the re-establishment of peace in the Far East.

The first proposal for the convening of a Japanese peace conference was made by the United States government on July 11 of this year. It suggested that a conference of representatives of the eleven states, members of Far Eastern Commission, namely Australia, Canada, China, France, India, The Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the U.S.S.R., should be convened as soon as practicable to discuss a peace treaty for Japan. Such an eleven-power conference was advocated because it would provide a broad representative basis of participation to include all those nations with a primary interest in Japan. It was the view expressed by the United States government that other states at war with Japan might be given an opportunity to present their views while the peace treaty was being drafted and that after drafting had reached a sufficiently advanced stage it should be considered by a general conference of all the states at war with Japan. It was proposed that decisions at the preliminary eleven-power conference should be adopted by a simple two-thirds majority.

The Canadian government welcomed these proposals made by the United States government and viewed with satisfaction the provision that the eleven powers primarily interested in the settlement with Japan participate fully from the beginning in the preparation of the treaty. Canada noted with approval the suggestion that voting should be by a simple two-thirds majority.

Australia, France, India, The Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom also accepted the United States proposal without any important reservations.

China and the U.S.S.R. did not agree to the procedure suggested.

U. S. S. R. COUNTER-PROPOSAL

The Soviet union took the view that the question of convening a conference for drawing up a peace treaty with Japan should be provisionally examined by the council of foreign ministers, composed of representatives of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China only.

Mr. GREEN: France is not included.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No, France is not included. This counter-proposal was not accepted by the United States government, which pointed out that such discussions as occurred at Potsdam regarding problems of peace in the Far East, in connection with the establishment of the council of foreign ministers, did not make it mandatory to refer to the council matters relating to the peace settlement with Japan. Although the council of foreign ministers was constituted on a basis which would have permitted its use for the preparation of a peace treaty with Japan, provided the members of the council subsequently agreed, the United States government did not believe it appropriate that this matter be referred to the council.

On November 17 the Chinese government proposed that the Japanese peace treaty should be prepared at a conference of the eleven states, members of the Far Eastern Commission, with a voting procedure similar to that employed in the Far Eastern Commission. That is to say, in that body decisions are taken by a majority vote, including the concurring votes of China, the United Kingdom, the United States and the U.S.S.R.

Mr. GREEN: This was the second proposal by China?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: That is the proposal of China, the only difference being with respect to voting procedure. The United States had proposed that it be a two-thirds majority, regardless of the status of the voting power. China proposed that it be a majority which would include the concurring votes of those four big powers.

Mr. GREEN: That meant a veto.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes. In replying to this proposal on November 27 the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Molotov, proposed that "there be convened in January, 1948, a special session of the council of foreign ministers, comprising the representatives of China, the United States of America, the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom, for the consideration of the question of the preparation of a peace settlement for Japan." It was proposed that, if the Chinese government were agreeable, this session of the council of foreign ministers might be convened in China.

On December 12 the United Kingdom government sent notes to the Chinese and Soviet governments commenting on their proposals for the Japanese peace conference.

U. K. GOVERNMENT'S VIEW

The United Kingdom government considered that all the countries which are specially concerned in the settlement with Japan, by reason of their contributions to the defeat of Japan, the degree to which they suffered from Japanese aggression, and their vital interest in the future peaceful development of the Pacific areas, are entitled to be represented as principal parties in that settlement, and that their exclusion would prejudice the efficacy of a settlement in which they have the right to be consulted at every stage.

The United Kingdom government believed that in the light of the experience which has been gained, both in the discussions of other peace settlements and in the far eastern commission, the adoption of a voting procedure which would confer the right of veto on the four major powers would be likely to retard the conclusion of an early settlement in the far east and would not provide equitable representation of the interests of all the principal combatants. It could not, therefore, accept the proposals advanced by the Chinese government for the procedure to be followed at the Japanese peace conference.

The United Kingdom government also reiterated its view that there is nothing in the protocol of the proceedings of the Berlin conference of 1945, which established the council of foreign ministers, which makes obligatory the use of the procedure of that body, as suggested by the U. S. S. R., for the consideration of the peace settlement with Japan.

CANADIAN ATTITUDE

The views of the Canadian government with respect to the procedure to be followed in the preparation of the Japanese peace treaty remain the same as those communicated in the reply to the original United States proposal of July 11. It is the hope of the Canadian government that the other powers concerned will agree that the procedure outlined in the United States proposal is the one which would be most conducive to the conclusion of an early and equitable settlement in the Far East. It is also our hope that the convening of a conference on this basis will not be long delayed.

When parliament reassembles after the Christmas recess we shall no doubt have an opportunity to hear a report from the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) on the conference of representatives of governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations which was convened in Canberra at the end of August to discuss in a preliminary and confidential way some of the problems of the Japanese peace conference. I trust that there will also be opportunity for discussion of some of the substantive questions relating to the Japanese peace settlement and Canada's interests therein.

Mr. GREEN: Have all the members of the commonwealth taken the same stand with regard

to the Chinese and Russian proposals?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I speak subject to correction, but my understanding is that that is the view, at least of all those represented at the Canberra conference.

PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS: Both Houses of Parliament adjourned Dec. 19 over the Christmas holidays. The House of Commons meets again Jan. 26; the Senate, Jan. 27. Addresses were adopted to continue in force till the end of March the Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947, and the Agricultural Products Act. Second reading debate on the Emergency Exchange Conservative Act, authorizing import controls, was not completed. Approval has also to be given to the Geneva trade pacts.

Debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was not concluded.

"MICMAC" COLLISION

INQUIRY BOARD'S REPORT: Announcement of the findings of the Formal Investigation under the Canada Shipping Act into the collision between H.M.C.S. "Micmac" and the freighter S.S. "Yarmouth County" off Halifax Harbour on July 16 last has been made by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. The Commissioner finds that "the damage, loss of life and injury to personnel was caused by the default of the Commanding Officer of the H.M.C.S. 'Micmac' and not by the default of the Master of the 'Yarmouth County'".

The report is signed by the Commissioner, Mr. Justice W. F. Carroll, Judge in Admiralty of the Exchequer Court for the District of Nova Scotia, and by the Assessors, Commodore G. M. Hibbard, R.C.N., retired, and Captain Robert A. Goudey, Master Mariner, retired.

The cause of the collision, according to the finding of the court, was that "H.M.C.S. 'Micmac' was not sounding its siren and entered the fog at too high a rate of speed and placed herself in a position from which she could not extricate herself. The fault attributed to the S.S. 'Yarmouth County' of not proceeding at a moderate speed did not in our best judgment contribute to the collision."

Expanding on this finding the court states: "The 'Yarmouth County' prior to entering fog was complying with Rules of the Road. The 'Yarmouth County' entered the fog at less than full speed and was sounding her fog whistle. The 'Yarmouth County' failed to reduce speed after entering fog."

"The 'Micmac' prior to entering fog bank was complying with Rules of the Road at sea. Just previous to entering he failed to comply with the Rules of the Road at sea."

"The 'Yarmouth County' in our opinion under the circumstances did not proceed at a moderate speed after entering fog and prior to collision. H.M.C.S. 'Micmac' approached and entered an area of low visibility at much too great a speed and was not sounding her siren."

The Commissioner appends the following remarks: "We beg leave to say that in our opinion and in the opinion of counsel for the Commanding Officer of the H.M.C.S. 'Micmac', the said Commanding Officer was probably lulled into a sense of security by reason of the fact that he had the right to believe that radar was a very reliable aid to navigation."

DISCIPLINE MAINTAINED

The report states that "the 'Yarmouth County' was sighted by Commanding Officer of the 'Micmac' and port lookout William E. Degan ahead, slightly on port bow almost at instant of collision, slightly on port bow." The court further found that "the two ships came together, port bow to port bow". The two ships were in sight of each other "momentarily only, whilst in collision and passing." It further found that following the crash, discipline was maintained and proper steps were taken toward the saving of life and property on each ship.

The Court found that H.M.C.S. "Micmac" only was equipped with radar. The H.M.C.S. "Micmac" radar picked up an object "dead ahead approximately 500 yards distant. This object must have been the 'Yarmouth County'". In this connection, evidence given at the Formal Investigation by the Operations Officer reads: "That echo arrived at the same time as I heard 'hard a-starboard, full speed astern both engines'".

Evidence given by the Commanding Officer of the H.M.C.S. "Micmac" was to the effect that he sighted the "Yarmouth County" a few seconds before the collision. He told the Court that he immediately ordered "hard a-starboard, followed by full astern, both engines". The Commanding Officer testified that the order was carried out and his ship came around probably some 10 degrees "because otherwise I don't think any of us would ever have got back again".

MILITARY ATTACHE TO TURKEY: Colonel John Francis Bingham, of Winnipeg, has been appointed Canadian military attache to Turkey, Army Headquarters announce. He leaves shortly to take up his new duties.

Col. Bingham attended St. Andrew's College, Toronto, and schools in England before obtaining his commission in Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in 1932, serving with that regiment and as a junior staff officer until the outbreak of war when he was promoted captain. He obtained his majority in October 1941, while overseas.

By June of 1942 he was a lieutenant-colonel commanding the 1st Armoured Regiment (Royal Canadian Dragoons). Later he commanded the 12th Armoured Regiment (Three Rivers) and by August 1944 was a brigadier commanding the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade.

From December 1944 until August 1945, he was Brigadier, Royal Armoured Corps, at Headquarters First Canadian Army.

On his return to Canada he became commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps training establishment at Camp Borden. In 1946 he was transferred to Army Headquarters, Ottawa, as Director of Army Cadets.

Col. Bingham's father, Lt.-Col. R. F. Bingham, is on the Reserve of Officers.

NO ARMY VACCINATION FOR FLU: The Canadian Army is not considering the vaccination of all personnel against influenza, as is the case in the United States where mass vaccinations are being carried out by the U.S. Army.

Canadian military officials, on the advice of the Canadian Public Health Association and the Department of National Health and Welfare, have rejected, for a number of reasons, any plans they may have had to immunize the troops. Chief of these is two-fold -- that the immunity conferred on the individual is of short duration and that the present vaccine affords protection against only two of many known types of the disease. Authorities also point out that many people suffer rather violent reactions after the administration of the influenza vaccine.

NEW RECRUITS NOW ENLISTING: More and more new recruits with no previous military training are being attracted into the Canadian Army Active Force which, only a matter of weeks ago, was composed of about 99 per cent veterans. A survey of recent enlistment figures reveals that at the present time two out of every three new enlistments are young men who, because of their extreme youth, did not see service in World War II. Prior to the current recruiting campaign, or from April 1 to the end of September, barely 160 new recruits made the grade for the new Army. In at least one three-week period since then, this six-month total has been more than doubled, and the ratio is being stepped up daily.

The Army, as did the Navy and the Air Force, launched a recruiting drive September 30. This drive will continue on a modest scale to the end of the present fiscal year. Although response has been good, a great many of those who have made enquiries concerning enlistment or re-enlistment have been unable to meet the higher peacetime educational and physical requirements. Even so, successful applicants are being signed on at the rate of 10 per day or approximately 300 per month.

FORCES AT ATTENTION WHEN "O CANADA" PLAYED: Whether or not military personnel should stand at attention when "O Canada" is played was settled once and for all this week with the appearance of an official ruling on the subject. In future, all ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force not only will come to attention, but officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers will salute.

The order refers only to members of the

armed forces in uniform who, at the time "O Canada" is played, are not under the authority of an officer commanding a parade. Formerly, the foregoing procedure was observed only when the National Anthem was played for a Royal Salute.

PEACE TREATY RIGHTS

RESTORATION OF PROPERTY: Canadian citizens who may have had legal rights and interests in Italy, Roumania, Hungary and Finland, or who may own property in those countries, are reminded by the Department of External Affairs, that under the peace treaties with these countries, the respective Governments have undertaken to restore to Canadians all such legal rights as they existed on the date of Canada's entry into war with each of those countries. Moreover, these Governments have undertaken to restore all Canadian property as it now exists to the rightful owners. If it is impossible to restore the property in complete good order, the ex-enemy Government concerned is to pay compensation in local currency, to the extent of two-thirds of the value of the damage sustained.

The only persons entitled to consideration under these treaties, are those who possessed Canadian nationality at the date of the armistice between Canada and the country concerned, and have retained that nationality up until the date of the coming into force of the peace treaty with that country. So far as Canada is concerned, the date of the armistice with Italy was September 3, 1943; with Roumania, September 12, 1944; with Hungary, January 20, 1945; and with Finland, September 19, 1944. So far as Canada is concerned, the peace treaty with Italy came into force September 15, 1947, and those with Roumania, Hungary and Finland on September 19, 1947.

Any Canadians who are interested in this portion of the treaties are advised to take immediate steps through regular private commercial or legal channels to obtain restoration of their property rights in these countries. At this time there is no necessity to refer the matter to the Canadian Government. When the information is available, the Department of External Affairs, in a subsequent press release, will advise concerning the name and address of the agency set up by each ex-enemy Government to handle claims arising under this part of the peace treaty.

TO HAND BACK LOOT: The Department of External Affairs announces that under the peace treaties which Canada has signed with Italy, Roumania and Hungary, the Governments of these respective countries have undertaken to hand back all allied looted property at present within their territories or held in third countries in the names of persons under their jurisdiction.

Canadian residents who may be interested in this provision of the peace treaties are reminded by the Department of External Affairs

that claims for the restitution of such property should be submitted immediately to the Government of the allied country from which the property was removed. The Government of that allied country in turn, must present the claim to the ex-enemy Government concerned within a period of six months from the effective date of the peace treaty. So far as Canada is concerned, this period will expire in the case of Italy on March 15, 1948, and in the case of Roumania and Hungary on March 19, 1948.

Canadians are reminded that only identifiable property removed by force or duress is eligible for restitution. There is no need to refer these claims to the Canadian Government. They should be referred directly to the Government of the country from which the property was removed, through private commercial or legal channels.

\$409 MILLION IN WAR SURPLUS SALES: Sales of surplus war material, by War Assets Corporation to the end of November brought in an aggregate of \$409,559,142, according to figures released by the Corporation.

By periods receipts were as follows:

April 1, 1944 - March 31, 1945	\$ 9,507,128
April 1, 1945 - March 31, 1946	124,878,368
April 1, 1946 - March 31, 1947	219,205,532
April 1, 1947 - Nov. 30, 1947	55,968,114
TOTAL	\$409,559,142

Sales of principal commodities in order of dollar return were in round numbers:

Ships.....	\$115,500,000
Automotive vehicles and equipment.....	66,000,000
Machinery, machine tools, etc.....	57,500,000
Lands and Buildings.....	44,500,000
Clothing, Footwear, Textiles..	32,800,000
Metals.....	15,000,000
Aircraft, components and equipment.....	9,000,000

NOVEMBER MERCHANDISE EXPORTS: Canada's merchandise export trade was maintained at a high level in November, being valued at \$253,100,000 compared with \$250,800,000 in October and \$232,200,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for November was \$27,500,000 in excess of the monthly average to the end of October. Aggregate value of commodities exported during the eleven months ending November was \$2,508,700,000 compared with \$2,100,300,000 in the similar period of 1946, an advance of 19.4 per cent.

A gain in exports to countries of the British Empire was a feature of the month's trade, the total rising from \$91,531,000 in November last year to \$111,202,000, while the aggregate for the eleven months ending November

increased from \$816,720,000 to \$1,061,171,000. Exports to foreign countries in November rose from \$140,687,000 to \$141,901,000, and in the eleven months from \$1,283,593,000 to \$1,447,576,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom advanced from \$57,885,000 in November last year to \$69,254,000, and in the eleven months from \$538,146,000 to \$678,657,000. November exports to the United States advanced from \$89,228,000 to \$92,856,000, and in the cumulative period from \$804,073,000 to \$928,278,000.

Exports to other leading markets in November were as follows, totals for November last year being in brackets; Newfoundland, \$6,511,000 (\$4,050,000); British South Africa, \$5,121,000 (\$8,570,000); Australia, \$3,942,000 (\$4,991,000); New Zealand, \$6,307,000 (\$1,754,000); Argentina, \$3,992,000 (\$2,757,000); Brazil, \$5,800,000 (\$5,230,000); Belgium, \$6,310,000 (\$3,643,000); France, \$4,490,000 (\$7,911,000); China, \$3,873,000 (\$5,616,000).

ESTIMATED LABOUR INCOME: A total of \$530,000,000 was received by residents of Canada in wages, salaries and supplementary labour income in September, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The figure was \$13,000,000 higher than the corresponding total for August, and \$84,000,000, or 19 per cent higher than in September, 1946. For the first nine months of 1947, labour income amounted to \$4,404,000,000, an increase of 18 per cent over the similar period of last year.

A decrease in the domestic purchasing power of the Canadian dollar is indicated by a ten per cent rise in the average cost-of-living index for the months from January to September, 1947, over the comparable average for 1946. At the same time, the average index of employment in nine leading industries for the two periods, rose nine per cent, reflecting distribution of aggregate earnings among larger numbers of workers. It would appear, therefore, that there was little change in the average workers' total income to the end of September, 1947 compared with the first nine months of 1946.

FUEL OIL SHORTAGE: In a statement issued to the Press, Dec. 23, the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, Mr. Howe, states that it is not proposed at the present time to invoke restrictions on the importation of fuel oil. Arrangements are being made, however, to reduce substantially the imports during the early part of 1948.

The industry and distributors are circularizing their customers suggesting various ways in which fuel oil can be conserved. It is of the utmost importance that the consumers should cooperate fully with the industry and distributors in carrying out these suggestions for conservation. Careful attention to these suggestions should prevent the development of a situation which might result in serious

hardship if the shortage position becomes more acute.

LESS TIME LOST FROM STRIKES: Time loss due to work stoppages arising out of industrial disputes in November was only about 28 per cent of the time lost during the previous month but was substantially higher than in November, 1946, it was shown by the monthly summary of strikes and lockouts issued by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

Preliminary figures for November, 1947, show 28 strikes and lockouts, involving 14,735 workers, with a time loss of 119,602 man-working days, as compared with 46 strikes in October, 1947, involving 27,560 workers and a time loss of 428,170 days. In November, 1946, there were 20 strikes, involving 7,915 workers, with a time loss of 33,278 days.

DEATH OF DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT: Duncan Campbell Scott, one of Canada's great poets, died at his Ottawa home, Dec. 19, at the age of 85.

For many years, Dr. Scott was deputy superintendent-general of the Department of Indian Affairs. He did not begin to write until he was 25--his first interest had been in music.

His first book, "The Magic House and Other Poems," was published when he was 30.

In 1896 he published a book of short stories of French Canada, entitled "In The Village of Viger." Other works followed: "Labour and The Angel," in 1898; "New World Lyrics and Ballads," in 1905; "John Graves Simcoe," a biographical collaboration with Pelham Edgar in 1905; "Lundy's Lane," in 1916, "Beauty and Life," in 1921; "The Witching of Elspie," short stories of the Hudson Bay region, in 1923, and "Collected Poems," in 1926.

WEEKLY SECURITY PRICE INDEXES: The following are security price index numbers of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the week ending December 18, 1947, a week and month earlier:

	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Nov. 20
			(1935-39=100)

INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX

(100 Common Stocks)...	105.5	106.4	108.1
74 Industrials.....	99.7	100.4	102.0
18 Utilities.....	111.2	112.1	114.8
8 Banks.....	132.2	134.1	135.4

MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX

(27 Stocks).....	84.5	88.4	92.3
23 Golds.....	72.3	77.3	81.7
4 Base Metals.....	107.2	108.6	111.2