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## INDEX TO INSIDE PAGES

United Nations Scientific Conference .....	2	Long-Time Crop Yields .....	4
Record Auto Sales .....	3	Manufacturing Industries .....	4
Marine Weather Service .....	3	At the United Nations .....	5
Canada Savings Bonds .....	3	R. C. A. F. Appointment .....	5
Residential Building .....	3-4	Arctic Cruise .....	5
Department Store Sales .....	4	977, 594 Union Members .....	6
Merck Fellowships .....	4	National Parks Attract .....	6
Wheat Stocks .....	4	Employment Higher .....	6
Half-Year's Store Sales .....	4	Wheat, Flour Exports Up .....	6

## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**WHEAT CROP 391,500,000 BUSHELS:** Canada's 1949 wheat crop is placed at 391.5 million bushels by the Bureau of Statistics in its first estimate of this year's principal field crops in Canada, excluding Newfoundland for which estimates are not available. This estimate is only 1.8 million bushels below last year's outturn but about 18.6 million below the 10-year (1939-48) average production.

Estimated average yield of wheat per seeded acre is 14.2 bushels as compared with 16.3 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 17.4 bushels per acre. The wheat crop is being harvested from a near-record seeded area estimated at 27.5 million acres as against 24.1 million in 1948 and 23.5 million for the 10-year average.

In the Prairie Provinces the wheat crop is expected to yield 362 million bushels, one million bushels less than in 1948. The anticipated average yield of wheat in the Prairie Provinces this year is 13.7 bushels per seeded acre, with Manitoba averaging 21.2, Saskatchewan 12.6 and Alberta 12.7 bushels per acre.

Saskatchewan's wheat production is placed at 199 million bushels while the outturn in Alberta is estimated at 96 million and Manitoba at 67 million bushels. The western wheat crop, particularly in Alberta and to a lesser extent in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, contains a relatively small proportion of fall wheat, but due to difficulties encountered in obtaining the acreage data required for a separate fall wheat estimate in the Prairie Provinces,

all western wheat is included under spring wheat in this report.

Production of wheat in the remainder of Canada is placed at 29.5 million bushels. Ontario's expected outturn is 25.2 million bushels, accounting for the greater part of Canadian wheat grown outside the Prairie Provinces. All but 1.1 million bushels of Ontario's production is fall wheat, expected to yield an average of 30 bushels per acre.

The production of oats in 1949 is estimated at approximately 317 million bushels, a reduction of over 41 million bushels from the 1948 crop. A decrease of almost four bushels per acre from last year's average yield more than offset the slight increase in acreage seeded to oats this year.

Barley production, estimated at 126.5 million bushels, is down 28.5 million bushels from the 1948 level.

A decrease of approximately 60 per cent from the 1948 production is expected for this year's rye crop in Canada. The combined outturn of fall and spring rye is estimated at 9.9 million bushels compared with 25.3 million in 1948.

A sharp drop in Canadian flaxseed acreage, combined with lower anticipated average yields than in 1948, has brought about a considerable reduction in this year's flaxseed crop, which is currently estimated at 2.5 million bushels.

For Canada as a whole, the total production of hay and clover is currently estimated at 11.9 million tons compared with last year's 16.1 million tons.

## UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

**CRITICAL MINERAL SHORTAGES:** Following is an excerpt from the address of Dr. H.L. Keenleyside, Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources, at a plenary session of the U.N. Scientific Conference on the conservation and utilization of resources, on August 18:

"...our knowledge of the world's supply of mineral products is so meagre and so unreliable as to make it impossible to forecast with any assurance even an approximate date at which we will be faced with a critical shortage of any specific item.

"It is clear, as I have already stated, that there is no serious and immediate overall and irreplaceable shortage of any essential mineral. But it is equally clear that the demand for mineral products is increasing at such a rate that unless there is a fundamental change in the economic fabric of human society we will ultimately be faced with the exhaustion of many of our mineral reserves. In some cases, particularly lead, cobalt and copper, and probably also iron and oil, the supply will be exhausted more rapidly than in others. New discoveries, improved methods of extraction and processing, and careful conservation will postpone the advent of critical mineral shortages. Substitution may provide alternate solutions.

## ALTERNATIVES POSSIBLE

"When shortages do develop, they may not be critical because alternatives may be available. But this is a hope not a promise. In the meantime the practices which have used or squandered our mineral resources in the past still continue and consumption is rising at a rate that can only be described as alarming. The situation that is thus developing will make heavy demands on human intelligence and good will. Since no one nation has been endowed with all its mineral requirements, the problem crosses every national boundary. The discovery of solutions is a matter of universal concern.

"The experience of the two world wars has shown the folly of wasting our irreplaceable mineral supplies in barren struggles that, apart entirely from the moral and social degradation which they produce, end only in general impoverishment and the permanent depletion of our resources. Further conflicts of this kind will hasten the day when real shortages in our reserves will develop. They may leave us too little time.

"Because the problem is a world problem, the search for solutions should be on a world basis. That search can be made infinitely more productive if it is based on an increased appreciation of the necessity for scientific research in this field. There must be co-operation in the exchange of technical and industrial knowledge. Above all, there must be peace. Given these conditions we can refuse to

admit that any material problem is beyond the ultimate competence of mankind...."

**CANADIANS PRESIDE:** Word has been received from Lake Success that Canadians have been invited to preside over three sessions of the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources which opens August 17, it is announced by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

H.L. Keenleyside, who heads the Canadian Delegation, presided at the plenary session, August 18, on "World Resources - A Review of Critical Shortages."

Dr. G.C. Monture, Chief, Mineral Resources Division, Bureau of Mines, will head one of the eight Section meetings to be held on minerals, and P.E. Cavanagh, Assistant Director, Department of Engineering and Metallurgy, Ontario Research Foundation, will preside at a Session of the Fuels and Energy Commission.

Section meetings will be devoted to specific world problems in the field of minerals, forest products, water-power, land resources, fish and marine resources, fuels and energy.

U.N.S.C.C.U.R. marks a new departure for the United Nations. A pioneer among world conferences, it will be unique in the range of sciences and technology that its discussions are scheduled to cover. Fifty-five countries will send some five hundred experts to exchange ideas and methods in an attempt to plan wiser uses and wider distribution of the world's vital natural resources. Contributing skill and experience will be engineers, scientists, economists, botanists, geologists, water-power experts and resource administrators.

Members of the official Canadian Delegation are as follows:

Dr. H.L. Keenleyside, Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources, and Commissioner of the Northwest Territories;

Dr. G.S.H. Barton, Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture;

Dr. A.L. Pritchard, Director, Fish Culture Development, Department of Fisheries;

H.D. Fisher, Fisheries Research Board, Department of Fisheries;

Dr. G.C. Monture, Chief, Mineral Resources Division, Department of Mines and Resources;

A. Ignatieff, Fuels Division, Bureau of Mines, Department of Mines and Resources;

George Tunstall, Dominion Forest Service, Department of Mines and Resources

I.R. Strome, Dominion Water and Power Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources.

During the Conference papers will also be presented by representatives of the National Research Council, the Ontario Research Foundation, and Canadian Universities and Industries.

**RECORD AUTO SALES:** Both factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles and sales of new motor vehicles reached new high postwar levels for the period during the first half of this year.

With June figures setting a new record for a month, factory shipments by Canadian manufacturers during the six months aggregated 140,115 units compared with 129,182 units in the corresponding period last year and with 126,215 units in 1947, according to the Bureau of Statistics. June shipments totalled 30,096 units compared with 26,708 in May, 23,362 in June last year, and the previous month's peak of 27,305 units last December.

Of the half-year's total shipments, 125,262 units were for sale in Canada and the remainder for export, while 27,183 of the June shipments -- a slightly higher proportion -- were for sale in Canada and 2,913 for export.

Passenger cars accounted for 87,470 of the total units shipped in the half-year, 79,966 being for sale in Canada and 7,504 for export. Of the June shipments, 20,008 were passenger cars and 18,698 of those were for domestic sale and 1,310 were shipped for sale abroad. Commercial vehicles shipped in the half-year totalled 52,645 units, of which 45,296 were for sale in Canada and 7,349 for export; while 8,485 out of 10,088 units shipped in June were for domestic sale and 1,603 for export.

Sales of new automobiles during the first half of this year rose to 132,780 vehicles sold for \$280,133,731 as compared with 107,534 units retailed for \$212,011,081 in the corresponding period last year, an increase of 24 per cent in number and 32 per cent in value. Most of this increase was in sales of passenger cars, which showed a gain of 33 per cent in number and 44 per cent in dollar volume with 88,469 sold for \$184,462,951 as against 66,502 sold for \$127,834,859 in the January-June period of 1948.

In the truck field, increases in the half-year were more moderate, 43,922 units being sold for \$88,186,811 as against 40,651 retailed for \$77,590,526, making gains of eight per cent in number and 14 per cent in value. Buses sold numbered 389 as against 381 last year, the retailed value showing a sharper increase at \$7,483,969 as compared with \$6,585,696.

During June a total of 26,738 vehicles were sold for \$55,539,165, an advance of 24 per cent in number and 28 per cent in value over the 21,626 vehicles sold for \$43,430,979 in June last year.

**MARINE WEATHER SERVICE:** Stepping up of meteorological forecasting service designed to improve aids to navigation on the St. Lawrence River will be put into operation effective August 15, it is announced by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier.

This new regular weather forecast service will be an extension of existing marine weather services and completes the establishment of

forecasts for all shipping lanes in Eastern Canada.

In making the announcement, the Minister stated that this new forecast service makes available marine weather forecasts to shipping from Lake Superior over the whole St. Lawrence waterway system and around the Maritimes, Newfoundland and Labrador Coast. He pointed out also that during the summertime navigation season, marine forecasts are provided for the Hudson Bay route.

A breakdown of the new services has been provided by Andrew Thomson, Controller, Meteorological Division of the Department of Transport, who states that the new forecasts will cover the St. Lawrence River water areas from Gananoque to Father Point. These join up with the existing services for the Great Lakes and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

**CANADA SAVINGS BONDS:** The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on August 12 that a Fourth series of Canada Savings Bonds will be offered to the public this fall. At the same time the Minister gave notice that Canada Savings Bonds, Series Three, will be withdrawn from sale on August 31. Applications made before August 31, with arrangements for deferred payment, are not affected.

Decision to issue a Fourth Series of Canada Savings Bonds is a direct reflection of the enthusiastic response that has attended the previous three offerings. Since the introduction of this unique savings instrument in 1946, Canadians have made more than three million purchases of Canada Savings Bonds, representing a total value in excess of \$1 billion. Last year, purchases on the Payroll Savings Plan reached a new high of \$118 million. The number of industrial and commercial establishments offering the Payroll Plan to employees also reached an all-time high and more than 43% of all employees to whom the Payroll Plan was made available bought bonds.

Although terms of the new issue have not yet been announced, it is expected that the Fourth Series will retain the features which proved so popular in the first three. As in the past, the bonds will be available through banks and investment dealers as well as on the Payroll Savings Plan.

**RESIDENTIAL BUILDING:** Activity in residential building construction in Canada was stepped up in the first five months of this year, completions and starts both showing substantial gains over the same period last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

There were 32,451 dwelling units completed in the period compared with 24,582 in the like period of 1948, a gain of nearly one-third; starts numbered 29,671 compared with 26,359; and the estimated number under construction at the end of May was 53,533 as

against 56,456 at the beginning of the year. In May, 7,374 units were completed in Canada compared with 6,284 in the corresponding month last year. A breakdown of the types of dwellings completed shows that approximately 29 per cent are for rental purposes, the remainder being for owner-occupancy. Starts were made in May on 12,809 units compared with 11,407 a year earlier.

Ontario had the largest number under construction at the end of the month at 20,692, followed by Quebec with 13,557, British Columbia 7,006, Alberta 4,467, Manitoba 2,260, Nova Scotia 2,254, Saskatchewan 1,977, New Brunswick 1,185, and Prince Edward Island 135.

Among the larger metropolitan areas there were 8,482 under construction in Montreal, 4,802 in Toronto, 4,151 in Vancouver, 1,663 in Winnipeg, 1,130 in Hamilton, 866 in London, 843 in Victoria, 490 in Windsor, 435 in Quebec, 431 in Ottawa, 324 in Halifax, and 275 in Saint John.

**DEPARTMENT STORE SALES:** Department store sales rose four per cent in July over the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. All regions of the country participated in the rise except Quebec where there was a decline of two per cent. The gain in Alberta was 10 per cent, Saskatchewan nine, Manitoba eight, British Columbia seven, the Maritimes four, and Ontario one per cent.

Preliminary compilations for the week ending August 6 show a decline in sales of two per cent for Canada as a whole, declines in eastern Canada more than counterbalancing advances in western sections.

**MERCK FELLOWSHIPS:** Two Merck postdoctoral fellowships in the natural sciences have been awarded for the year 1949-50, it has been announced by the National Research Council at Ottawa. Grants have been made to Dr. D.A.I. Goring, of McGill University's Department of Physical Chemistry, who will study colloid science under Professor F.J.W. Roughton, F.R.S. at Cambridge University, England; and to Dr. M.J. Miller of the Institute of Parasitology at Macdonald College, who will pursue his studies in medical parasitology and clinical tropical medicine under the direction of the School of Tropical Medicine at the University of Calcutta, India.

**WHEAT STOCKS:** Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on July 31 amounted to 54,556,000 bushels compared with 53,098,000 on July 24, and 34,799,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

**HALF-YEAR'S STORE SALES:** With dollar sales in June repeating the gains of earlier months over last year, total department store sales in Canada during the first half of this year were 10 per cent higher than last year. All provinces shared in the half-year gain, largest increases being in the Maritime and Prairie Provinces, and sales were higher in all departments except food and kindred products.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, January-June sales aggregated \$382,744,000 as compared with \$348,735,000 for the first six months of 1948. June sales amounted to \$67,230,000 as compared with \$63,254,000 for June last year, a lower-than-average increase of six per cent.

By regions, gains in the half-year ranged from nearly 19 per cent for Alberta to six per cent for Quebec. The Maritime Provinces were second in degree of increase with over 14 per cent; followed by Saskatchewan, just under 14 per cent; Manitoba, 12 per cent; British Columbia, nine per cent; and Ontario, nearly eight per cent.

**LONG-TIME CROP YIELDS:** Average annual yield per acre of all wheat in Canada during the 41 years from 1908 to 1948 inclusive was 16 bushels, fall wheat averaging 25 bushels and spring wheat 16 bushels, according to a summary of long-time average yields of field crops issued by the Bureau of Statistics. British Columbia had the highest average yield of spring wheat at 25 bushels, followed by Ontario with 19 bushels, Alberta and the three Maritime Provinces with 18 bushels each, Manitoba and Quebec with 17, and Saskatchewan with 15 bushels. Ontario's fall wheat crops have averaged 25 bushels per acre.

**MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES:** Number of manufacturing establishments in Canada increased by 1,465 from 1946 to 1947, rising from 31,249 to 32,714, according to a summary of principal statistics of Canadian manufacturing production during 1947 issued by the Bureau of Statistics. Detailed information on the country's manufacturing industries will be issued later.

Average number of persons employed in Canada's manufacturing industries during 1947 rose to 1,131,750 from 1,058,156 the previous year, but the year's gains still left the total below the totals for the war years 1942, 1943 and 1944. Salaries and wages paid in 1947 increased to \$2,085,926,000 from \$1,740,687,000 to exceed the previous peak of \$2,029,621,000 in 1944. Cost of materials advanced to \$5,534,280,000 as compared with \$4,358,235,000 in 1946, and the gross value of products to \$10,081,027,000 from \$8,035,692,000, both figures being new peaks.

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS:** The Security Council on August 11 adopted a joint resolution submitted by Canada and France, which, among other things:

Calls the recently signed armistice agreements "an important step towards the establishment of permanent peace in Palestine" and declares that the agreements supersede the Security Council's truce;

Reaffirms, pending the final peace settlement, the Council's cease-fire order of July 15, 1948;

Expresses hope that the parties will "at an early date achieve agreement on the final settlement of all questions outstanding between them" through negotiations either directly or with the Palestine Conciliation Commission;

Relieves the Acting Mediator of any further responsibility under Security Council resolution; and

Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the continued service of such of the personnel of the present Truce Supervision Organization as might be required to observe the cease-fire and to assist in the implementation of the armistice agreements.

The vote on the resolution was nine in favor to none against, with two abstentions (Ukraine, USSR), the U.N. Press Bureau reported.

Earlier, a series of Soviet amendments, revised August 11, were rejected.

One, asking the parties to negotiate directly, was defeated by a vote of two in favor (Ukraine, USSR), two against (United Kingdom, USSR) and seven abstentions.

A second, asking for the recall of the United Nations observers and the disbandment of the staff of the United Nations truce observation organization, was defeated by the same vote.

A third Soviet amendment, to delete the last three paragraphs of the Canadian French proposal, which refer to the United Nations observers, was defeated by a vote of two in favor (Ukraine, USSR), six against (Canada, Cuba, France, Norway, United Kingdom, United States) and three abstentions (Argentina, China, Egypt).

A joint resolution submitted by Canada and Norway, paying tribute to the Acting Mediator on Palestine, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche; the late Mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, and their staffs, was approved unanimously by the Council, without a vote.

**R.C.A.F. APPOINTMENT:** Air Force Headquarters has announced the appointment of Group Captain K.L.B. Hodson, OBE, DFC, of London, Ont., as a Director in the Air Plans Division of Air Force Headquarters, replacing Group Captain G.P. Lunlop, AFC, of Ottawa, who takes command of RCAF station Trenton, Ont.

**DEEP RIVER HOUSING:** Tenders have been invited by the National Research Council for the construction of ten additional houses at Deep River to provide further needed accommodation for the families of scientists working at the Atomic Energy Project. The village now has approximately 400 family dwellings, accommodation for about 400 single persons in the staff hotel, and all necessary auxiliary services including a shopping centre, recreational facilities and maintenance and municipality service units, and a well-equipped hospital.

The new houses will be of square plan, two storeys in height, and will each have seven rooms and bath. Frame construction and asbestos shingle siding will be used. Last year 34 houses were completed and the construction of 50 more was undertaken. Additional construction work now in progress in the village includes the placing of foundations under some 25 wartime houses. Two rooms have been added to the public school and it is expected further additions will soon be required and also that a high school will have to be built in the near future.

The population of the village is about 1800 of which approximately 550 are children.

**ARCTIC CRUISE:** The Royal Canadian Navy frigate HMCS "Swansea" will sail from Halifax August 24 on a four-week, 4,410-mile cruise to ports on the east coast of Baffin Island, it has been announced at Naval Headquarters. HMCS "Swansea" is commanded by Lieut. John P.T. Dawson, RCN, 29, of Westmount, P.Q., and Halifax.

The "Swansea's" most distant port of call will be River Clyde, a trading post and Department of Transport weather station approximately 1,800 miles north of Halifax, 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle and most northerly point ever to be visited by a vessel of the R.C.N.

Primary purpose of the cruise will be to familiarize officers and men with operating conditions in the sub-Arctic. In addition, hydrographic observations will be made and scientific data collected.

On leaving Halifax the "Swansea" will proceed to Frobisher Bay, Baffin Island, by way of the Straits of Belle Isle. From there she will sail 460 miles northward to Padloping Island, then on to River Clyde. On the return journey the frigate will rendezvous at Hebron, Labrador, with the naval auxiliary tanker "Dundalk" and will re-fuel from the latter.

A northern cruise has become an annual, late-summer undertaking by the R.C.N. Last September the carrier "Magnificent" and destroyers "Nootka" and "Haida" sailed in company to Wakeham Bay, on Hudson Strait, and from there the "Nootka" and "Haida" went on to Churchill, Manitoba, and Coral Harbour, on Southampton Island, at the northern extremity of Hudson Bay.

**977,594 UNION MEMBERS:** The number of trade union members in Canada has reached an all-time high according to a statement issued Aug. 15 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell. He stated that the membership of labour unions has increased by more than two and a half times during the past ten years and is now approaching one million.

Since 1911 the Department of Labour has conducted an annual survey of the membership of unions active in Canada. The results of the latest survey, conducted by the Economics and Research Branch of the Department, are contained in the publication, The Thirty-Eighth Annual Report on Labour Organization in Canada, which is to be issued shortly. The report shows that there were 977,594 trade union members in Canada at the end of 1948.

The surveys have indicated an almost continuous increase in union membership since 1939. Membership figures to the nearest thousand for the years 1939 to 1948 have been as follows:

1939.....	359,000	1944.....	724,000
1940.....	362,000	1945.....	711,000
1941.....	462,000	1946.....	832,000
1942.....	578,000	1947.....	912,000
1943.....	665,000	1948.....	978,000

An estimate of the industrial distribution of the members shows that almost one-fifth is concentrated in the "Metals Industry". The next largest groups are "Steam Railway Transportation" and "Services" which take in approximately 15 and 12 per cent of the union membership respectively. The largest numerical gain over the year 1948 was in the "Construction" industry where almost 20,000 new members were added. The membership in the "Wood and Wood Products" group increased by slightly more than 17,500. On the other hand, slight decreases were recorded in the "Mining and Quarrying" and in the "Clothing and Footwear" industries.

**NATIONAL PARKS ATTRACT:** Visitors are flocking to Canada's National Parks in greater numbers than ever before, according to attendance figures just released by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson. An increase of 46.5% has been registered during the first four months of this fiscal year over the comparable period of 1948.

With attendance already over the one-million mark this season last year's all-time record will likely be greatly exceeded.

**EMPLOYMENT HIGHER:** Important expansion in industrial activity as compared with May 1 was reported by 20,306 of the larger firms in the eight major industrial groups at the beginning of June, when their personnel showed an increase of 2.8 per cent, according to the Bureau of Statistics. This advance was similar in size to that indicated at the same date last summer, but on a rather larger scale than at June 1 in earlier years since 1941.

Based on the 1936 average as 100, the index of employment rose from 189.1 at the first of May to 194.4 at June 1, to reach the highest point in the record for the time of year, slightly exceeding the previous maximum of 192.3 at June 1, 1948. During the war years, the peak index for the beginning of June was 181.2 in 1943.

Accompanying the general rise in employment at June 1 over a month earlier was a gain of 0.8 per cent in the weekly salaries and wages disbursed by the reporting establishments. The increase was limited to the non-manufacturing industries. Lowered payrolls were reported, on the whole, in the factory group, largely as a result of the observance of the Victoria and the Ascension Day holidays in the week under review. As compared with the same week in 1948, the general index number of payrolls showed an increase of seven per cent at June 1 this year.

The trend of employment was favourable in all provinces and in each of the main industrial divisions.

Weekly earnings in the eight major industries--as revised since issue of an advance statement earlier this month--averaged \$42.34 at June 1 as compared with \$43.19 at May 1. The decline from the beginning of May was due partly to observance of public holidays and partly to variation in the industrial distribution of employment and a reduction in working hours in certain establishments. The average at June 1 last year was \$40.02.

**WHEAT, FLOUR EXPORTS UP:** Total exports of wheat and wheat flour during the first eleven months of the current crop year amounted to 207.2 million bushels, an increase of 28.4 million bushels over the comparable period of 1947-48, the Bureau of Statistics reports in its latest monthly review of the wheat situation.

Exports of wheat as grain on June 30 amounted to 161.9 million bushels as against 120.4 million in the same period of the previous crop year, a rise of more than 34 per cent. On the other hand, exports of flour in terms of wheat were down from 58.3 million bushels in 1947-48 to 45.3 million bushels.

The balance remaining on July 1 for export or carry-over was estimated at 114.1 million bushels compared with 93.7 million bushels on the same date in 1948. At July 31 last year the carry-over amounted to 77.7 million bushels.

**ROYAL ROADS COMMANDANT:** The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton on August 8, announced a change of command at the Canadian Services College, Royal Roads. Succeeding Captain H.S. Rayner, DSC and bar, R.C.N., of St. Catharines, Ont., as Commandant of the college is Group Captain J.B. Millward, DFC, RCAF, (718 Parkdale Ave.) Ottawa and Montreal.