

AUSSIE AIRFIELDS
CANBERRA, Australia (CP) — Air Minister A. G. Townley said the government policy of maintaining a string of airfields around the Australian coastline will involve outlay of nearly \$11,250,000 this year on construction of airstrips.

Slight Decrease Shown In Consumer Price Index During Month Of August

OTTAWA, (CP) — The consumer price index declined by one-fifth of a point in August to 116.8 from 117, cracking a steady three-month advance in the cost-of-living yardstick.

The drop in the index, based on 1949 prices equally 100, was caused mainly by a decline in some food prices, outweighing the continuing upward drive in rents and home-ownership costs, the bureau of statistics reported today.

Declines were noted for such food items as coffee, pork, lamb and fresh fruits and vegetables, overbalancing slight increases for butter, eggs and a number of canned foods.

There were other price declines for men's hats, work socks, overalls, slacks and women's hosiery, the cost of automobile operations, several furniture items, electric stoves, refrigerators, saucers, paper goods and laundry services.

OFFSET INCREASES

These helped offset increases for radios, local transportation fares, dishes, glassware, wool blankets, coal and shoe repairs.

The consumer price index, at 116.8, is the second highest on record since March, 1952. It is four-fifths of a point higher than the 116.2 a year ago and just 1.4 points below the all-time high of 118.2 recorded in December, 1951.

Living costs had been easing early in 1954 when they took a sudden jump in May with the index rising by three-fifths of a point. The following month it increased by a tenth of a point and then jumped by four-fifths of a point in July, the biggest leap in 33 months.

However, the August drop in food prices took the pressure off the consumer's pocketbook. The food sub-index declined by 1.3 points to 113.1, the first decline in three months.

Shelter which includes rents and home-ownership costs rose by a fifth of a point to a new high of 127.2, but clothing eased by a tenth of a point to 109.5. Household operations column remained unchanged for the third consecutive month at 117.2 which compares with the peak of 118.1 last March.

The miscellaneous column, called other commodities and services, eased by one-tenth of a point to 117.6 from the peak of 117.7. In the latter column, scattered decreases in automobile operation costs outweighed slight advances in radio and local transportation fares.

On the wholesale side, industrial prices showed no set change during September while farm products declined.

The industrial materials index,

based on 1935-39 prices equalling 100, stood at 22.7 on Sept. 24, unchanged from the Aug. 27 standing. The farm products index, also based on 1935-39 prices, dropped to 202.5 from 206.9. Potato, hog and lamb prices fell sharply.

POINT DESROCHE SCHOOL
 (September Report)
 Grade X — 1. Benny McCormack.
 Grade IX (Sr.) — 1. Joan McCormack; 2. Katherine McCormack; 3. Joseph McKenna.
 Grade IX (Jr.) — 1. Vincent McCormack; 2. John McCormack.
 Grade VI — 1. Terence McCormack; 2. Doreen McCormack.
 Grade V — 1. Rita McCormack; 2. Donald King.
 Grade II — 1. David McCormack.
 Grade I — 1. Joan McInnis.
 Highest Average Senior — Joan McCormack.
 Highest Average Juniors — Terence McCormack.
 Teacher: Mrs. Cecelia McCormack.

EASTERN TIP
 Canada's most easterly point is Cape Spear near St. John's in Newfoundland.

Describes Police Costs as Racket

SYDNEY, (CP) — Mayor Tony Gallagher Tuesday night described "police costs" as a racket and asked for a full-dress debate on the matter.

Alderman Starr MacLeod told the police commission a driver was fined \$5 for failing to observe a stop sign but there were general costs of \$3.05 and police costs of \$1.50.

Police costs are justified, he said, if an officer attends court while off duty. But this was a case of immediately laying information and the offender paying up in court.

"I agree it is a racket," said the mayor, who promised an investigation.

PLAN FIRST AIRLINE
COLOGNE, Germany (Reuters) — West Germany's first post-war commercial airline, Lufthansa, hopes to start operations next spring, an official said here Tuesday. The government sponsored company which will control the airline believes Allied occupation laws forbidding West Germans to operate airlines or fly powered planes will be removed by the middle or end of this month.

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