

Unemployment Figures At Post-War Peak Last Month Government Figures Show

OTTAWA (CP) — Government figures on unemployment Monday showed post-war peaks were reached in February on the two sets of figures federal officials use to measure Canada's jobless.

Chiefs of Canada's two major labor congresses promptly issued statements demanding that a program of action to cut down unemployment emerge from the forthcoming federal-provincial conference.

The government's monthly announcement on employment said that at Feb. 17 there were 618,459 persons registered for work with the National Employment Service and that the bureau of statistics estimated 379,000 persons were without jobs and looking for work through the week ended Feb. 19.

The previous high for the bureau's estimate was 582,000 for late January. For National Employment Service, the high was 569,886 in March, 1954. The last previously published NES figure — for late January — was 569,582.

STIMULATE DEBATE
The new figures undoubtedly will stimulate continuation of an unemployment debate in the Commons. This started March 1 and has run off-and-on for five sitting days.

The statistics, it was expected, will give opposition parties new fuel for attacks on job policies of the government, which now faces two weeks of confidence motions in the House on the unemployment issue.

In the Commons Monday, Labor Minister Gregg declined to comment on the new figures when asked by Claude Ellis (CCF—Egginga City). The minister said they can be discussed when the unemployment debate resumes, perhaps today.

Claude Jodoin, president of the 500,000-member Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, said the figures show that unemployment predictions made by the TLC months ago and branded them as pessimistic now are being shown as realistic.

ON AGENDA
"The only bright spot at this moment for the many unfortunate persons seeking employment," he said, "is the expectation that a (Continued on Page 2 col. 6)"

CHURCHILL RETIREMENT EARLY IN APRIL TAKEN FOR GRANTED; NO CONFIRMATION

Fund Established To Aid Fire Victims At Nicolet

By SHIRLEY MORRIS
Canadian Press Staff Writer

NICOLET, Que. (CP) — Members of 46 families Monday counted up their personal losses in a \$700,000 fire that destroyed 35 buildings in the heart of this community, 80 miles east of Montreal.

Within hours after a fire had left 300 homeless and destroyed 31 stores, a fund was established to help the victims. Each family was asked to list its losses and to register for aid.

The fund was launched by Mayor Ubaldo Caron, an insurance broker, who made the estimate of the over-all damage. He indicated he will appeal to the federal and provincial governments for assistance.

The fire, starting in a small restaurant and spreading with lightning speed to one building after the other, was one of the worst in the province since 1950.

SEND CLOTHES
In May of that year a \$20,000 fire ravaged Rimouski and within a few days a \$16,000,000 fire swept through Cabano, leaving more than 1,000 homeless.

The Red Cross quickly moved a team into Nicolet to help arrange food and shelter for the homeless. In Montreal 14 cases of children's clothing were packed for shipment to the community today.

There were no casualties during the fire that raged out of control for seven hours and destroyed nine blocks of this 200-year-old, French-speaking community of 5,500 on the shores of the Nicolet river.

The community is the home of several religious orders and when the blaze was at its height members of the Grey Nuns moved about the fire area pinning medals and prayers on buildings in the path of the fire. Townfolk not engaged in fighting the fire, ringed the disaster area praying or shouting encouragement to firemen.

BUSINESS AREA DESTROYED
The heart of the business community was destroyed. Only towering chimneys and charred foundations are all that remained of once thriving establishments.

Chief Edouard Beaulac of the Nicolet police and fire department credited the lack of casualties to the fact that a fire engine with siren screaming kept touring the town and the fire area until all houses were cleared.

The victims escaped with the clothes they wore and little else. Credit for bringing the fire under control was given to the swift help received from the neighboring communities of Drummondville, St. George, Pierre-ville and St. Leonard.

Child Run Over By Train Lives

CORNER BROOK, Nfld. (CP) — Three-year-old Alexander Saunders was struck by a locomotive Monday and run over by five boxcars.

Apart from minor scratches he was not injured.

The engine struck the child at nearby Deer Lake and he fell between the rails. Five cars passed over him before the train was stopped.

Protege Of Malenkov Is Fired As New Shakeup In USSR Culture Takes Shape

LONDON, (Reuters) — A new Kremlin shakeup among Russia's intellectuals appeared in the making Monday as Moscow radio announced the firing of Culture Minister Georgi F. Alexandrov.

Philosopher Alexandrov represented an "easier" approach to the arts as against the total cultural regimentation of the years immediately after the war.

Alexandrov was a protege of Georgi M. Malenkov, who was made to resign his post as premier last month.

The newly-appointed culture minister, Nikolai M. Mikhaliov, is a high-ranking Communist party member known to be in the good books of Nikita S. Khrushchev, first secretary of the Soviet Communist party and the Kremlin's big boss.

A former first secretary of the Komsomol youth central committee, he was a member of the special court which sentenced secret police chief Lavrenty Beria to death for treason in December, 1953.

PREVIOUS INDICATION
An indication of what may be the opening of a "back to Zhdanov" drive was previously given by Moscow radio last week.

In the official announcement broadcast by Moscow radio Monday, Alexandrov was accused of inefficiency in the direction of his ministry.

In the years after the Second World War, Alexandrov was one of the most prominent victims of "Zhdanovism"—the all-out regimentation of Russia's artists, musicians, writers and intellectuals on the party line.

His book on West European philosophy was publicly torn to pieces by the late Andrei A. Zhdanov, Stalin's cultural chief, in 1947. Though the book had been awarded a Stalin prize only a year earlier, Zhdanov found it too "pro-Western."

Zhdanov and Malenkov were bitter rivals for the Stalin mantle. Zhdanov died in 1946, when he was only 52, cleared the way for Malenkov's advancement.

GIVEN POST
One year after Stalin's death, Malenkov gave Alexandrov the post of minister of culture. The job entails direction over state publishing, radio, literature and many aspects of education.

There were indications under Malenkov of a limited relaxation in the rigid control exercised over Soviet intellectuals.

Last week, there were two significant pointers to the new line. A Moscow radio lecturer on Communist theory lauded the role played by Zhdanov at the 13th Communist party congress in 1938. That meant Zhdanov was back in favor.

The Soviet Literary Gazette reported public criticism of Alexandrov's ministry for having failed to give sufficient support to the Khrushchev agricultural drive. The ministry of culture is responsible for recruiting workers for agriculture.

Howe Reveals U.S. Got Special Out Under GATT

OTTAWA (CP)—The 34 member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade have proposed a system of stiffer controls over import restrictions imposed by overseas countries, but have granted the United States a waiver on her import curbs on farm products.

A 3,500-word communique, tabled in the Commons Monday, said the U.S. government was promised to consult other countries before taking any "new action" on restrictions and to terminate a restriction "as soon as it is no longer required."

The communique said the waiver granted the U.S. preserves the right of any country whose trade is damaged by American action to seek an "adjustment" through GATT negotiation. In addition, member countries will review American import curbs annually.

The communique was made public after Trade Minister Howe outlined in a Montreal speech some of the GATT's decisions, including the American waiver, which he said, was granted on a majority vote despite opposition by Canada and other countries.

"This is a regrettable incident in the commercial relations between Canada and the U.S.," he said in his Montreal speech. But he appealed to Canadians to reserve judgment on the U.S. until it is seen how the Americans act under the freedom to impose farm-import curbs whenever they interfere with domestic price-support programs.

The GATT proposals, with the exception of the U.S. waiver already in effect, is effective when ratified by the governments or parliaments of a majority of member countries.

The communique said GATT (Continued on Page 9 col. 3)

Russia, Seven Satellites Agree On One Command

LONDON (Reuters) — Moscow radio said Monday night Russia and her seven satellite East European states have agreed to set up a unified military command.

The broadcast quoted a Soviet foreign office statement declaring that the eight East European powers had held consultations on the subject in Moscow recently.

The talks followed the decisions taken by the Moscow security conference last fall and dealt with the establishment of friendship and mutual assistance pacts between the eight countries, the broadcast said.

The Moscow conference last Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 was the Communist bloc's response to Western moves to set up a Western defence organization including an armed West Germany.

Governments participating in the Moscow meeting included Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania. Communist China sent observers.

Monday's statement said the Peking government had taken part in the new consultations and "expressed its full agreement with the proposed measures."

It said: "Full identity of views was expressed... on the organization of a united command among the countries party to the treaty which would be set up if the Paris agreements were ratified in order to ensure security of these states and in the interest of maintaining peace in Europe."

Reuters' chief Moscow correspondent, Sidney Welland, reported earlier this month that generals from the European Communist countries were believed conferring in Moscow on new measures to counter West German rearmament.

He said a likely choice for the supreme command of any East-Atlantic Treaty Organization would be Marshal Konstantin Rokossovsky, war-time hero of the battles

Parliament At A Glance

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Monday

Defence Minister Campney said he hopes investigation of the explosion at a gun works depot at Vancouver will be completed in the next two weeks.

M. A. Hardie (L—MacKenzie River) said high transportation costs are keeping the North's gold mining costs high and deterring northern development.

The Commons defeated 130 to 36 a Progressive Conservative attempt to deny cabinet ministers membership on the estimates committee.

The annual report of the CNR tabled in the Commons, showed the company had the greatest revenue slump in its history in 1954.

Tuesday
The Commons resumes debate on unemployment. The Senate will sit.

Teacher Decides Not To Appeal

KENTVILLE, N.S. (CP) — Defence attorney Eric Kinsman said Monday teacher Gordon Hanford has decided not to appeal his conviction for slugging a student during a high school corridor altercation.

Hanford was found guilty earlier this month of assault occasioning bodily harm and fined \$75. Student Paul Bishop, 17, claimed he was struck and knocked down by Hanford while a group of classmates were moving from one room to another.

Death Strikes Mining Family Second Time

NEWCASTLE BRIDGE, N. B. (CP) — Death struck Monday for a second time at the same family in the Newcastle Bridge mine of the Newcastle Coal Company.

Edward Haley, 17, a miner's helper, died when crushed under tons of falling rock. Four years ago his brother, Wilfred, also 17, was electrocuted in the same mine.

Edward and a cousin, Henry Manning, 47, were working together when part of a tunnel collapsed. The rock fall killed Haley outright. Manning escaped with slight injuries after digging for nearly an hour to free himself. Seconds after he worked loose more rocks fell where he had been trapped.

Other workers recovered Haley's body. An inquest will be held Wednesday night.

Believed Embarrassed

It is believed the prime minister is acutely embarrassed by the premature "leak" to the press. He is a stickler for constitutional propriety and feels his intentions must first be made known to Queen Elizabeth.

Yet The Times, normally chary of speculation, boldly reports that the prime minister's resignation is expected soon. It adds that Churchill then will expect to sit in the House of Commons as a rank-and-file member without cabinet rank.

Walk On Beach Is Profitable

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP) — For years, 66-year-old George Biddle has taken a daily walk along the beach south of Morro bay. It paid off Sunday.

Biddle picked up 17 California gold coins dated 1851, gleaming in the sun near the tide mark. Coin collectors estimate each coin is worth between \$50 and \$1,000.

Monday the coins were in the custody of sheriff Paul Merrick. They will remain there until technicians are ironed out, assuring Biddle ownership.

Blame Driver In Highway Death

SPRINGHILL, N. S. (CP) — A coroner's jury here Saturday accused Donald Black of Truro of driving recklessly the night Horace MacKay of Port Howe was killed in a car crash.

The jury said it found evidence of "much drinking" and recommended that police investigate further the March 4 highway mishap.

The Canadian Press reported erroneously Sunday night that Donald Blair, a passenger, was the driver of the car. The Canadian Press regrets its error and apologizes for any embarrassment or inconvenience caused Mr. Blair.

Italian Premier Gets Backing On Eve of Trip

ROME (AP) — Leaders of the three largest parties in Premier Mario Scelba's government coalition gave him a promise of solid support Monday night on the eve of his important official trip to North America.

The husky Sicilian-born prime minister, who has held his centre bloc coalition together for 14 months, leaves Thursday for visits to Canada and the United States.

The Republicans, fourth and smallest party in his coalition, were not present Monday at a six-hour session in which he thrashed out controversial issues with heads of his own Christian Democrat party and leaders of the Social Democrats and Liberals.

Red Sentences Quashed

TEL AVIV (Reuters)—The Supreme Court of Communist Rumania has quashed prison sentences imposed by military courts on 60 Jewish leaders last year, sources here said Monday. Charges against the leaders, given sentences ranging from four to 20 years, included passing information to the Israeli legion in Bucharest and holding secret meetings. Reports say a fresh trial with new charges has been ordered.

Find Body of Stevedore

DALHOUSIE, N.B. (CP) — The body of Gilmore McEwen, 47, Restigouche county warden and a former stevedore here, was found in Dalhousie harbor Monday afternoon after three days of dragging operations.

Edgar Allard, a shipping pilot, was apparently the last person to see McEwen alive. They left a lunch room at the height of a blizzard and McEwen headed for the docked freighter Loula Mimikas.

It is believed he was either blown from the wharf by gale force wind or fell from the gang-plank. His watch stopped at 11:25. Drugging operations began Friday when word came that he had some 400 miles away.

Dr. Rowe said construction would begin this spring.

Big Price For Old Bird Book

LONDON (AP) — An untamed London bookseller Monday paid \$2,500 for a copy of Audubon's "Birds of America." The book was published between 1827 and 1838. It is about a yard wide and contains colored plates. John Heathcote, of Conington Castle, Peterborough, was the owner.

Foreign Office Opposes Revealing Yalta Papers

LONDON (AP) — Foreign office chiefs have advised Prime Minister Churchill against publishing Britain's version of the Yalta conference because it might damage Anglo-American relations, it was learned Monday night.

Foreign Secretary Eden's view is that Britain's record of the proceedings will expose differences between British and American interpretations of the same conversations. Inaccuracies that may have been completely unintentional and wrongly-drawn emphasis on individual statements. In turn public discussion of these differences inevitably would lead to a long-dissidence between London and Washington, Eden apparently fears.

The final effect on Anglo-American relations and on the two countries' ties with their European allies would only be harmful, in the opinion of foreign office chiefs.

These views apparently were held even before American records of the Yalta meetings of president Roosevelt, premier Stalin and Churchill were released last week.

Immigration Discussed

MONCTON, (CP)—Discussion of immigration policy featured a Monday meeting of the Maritime regional committee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The committee will recommend to the chamber's annual conference at Hamilton in May that the immigration potential of European countries be surveyed and that people skilled in trade and industry be encouraged to come to Canada.

Speakers said that although other parts of Canada have received more immigrants than the Maritimes, the quality of immigrants settling in the seaside provinces appeared higher. This was attributed to the fact that many Maritime companies have earmarked persons for specific jobs before their arrival.

The committee also decided to recommend that the Canadian chamber's policy declarations of a section advocating the single alternative vote as effective in British Columbia. The committee felt the section was "desirable but impractical" as it would require considerable public education.

C.N.R. Revenues Suffered Biggest Slump Last Year

OTTAWA (CP) — Revenues of the Canadian National Railways suffered their biggest slump in the company's history during 1954, the CNR said Monday in its annual report.

Tabled in the Commons it showed gross revenues fell by \$56,000,000 for the first deficit in three years despite a sharp reduction in operating expenses.

The deficit — previously announced — was \$28,758,000 compared with a surplus of \$244,000 in 1953.

However, the company continued its unbroken record of losses on operations, not taking into account bond indebtedness. The operating surplus was \$14,171,000.

Bond-interest commitments of \$31,209,000 caused the publicly-owned corporation's deficit, to be met by a parliamentary appropriation.

New Hospital For Labrador

ST. JOHN'S Nfld. (CP) — Resources Minister Rowe said Monday a hospital would be built at Nain in northern Labrador to be operated by the Grenfell association.

Dr. Rowe, member of the legislature for Labrador, said the federal and provincial governments would build the hospital and also help the association to operate it.

The most northern hospital now in Labrador is at North West River and far northern settlements including Hebron and Nutak are some 400 miles away.

Dulles Gives Views To Club

NEW YORK (AP)—State Secretary Dulles said Monday the Chinese Communists parallel Adolf Hitler in their "aggressive fanaticism."

They are "dizzy with success," Dulles said, and have an "exaggerated sense of their own power."

Though Russia may be more dangerous to the free world in the long run, Dulles said, "in the short run, the Chinese Communist method may prove more dangerous and provocative of war."

"The picture I have to draw is a sombre one," Dulles told an advertising club luncheon, "but it is by no means a hopeless one."

Maple Syrup Producers Face Fair Year In Quebec

MONTEREAL, (CP)—Sap is running and Quebec maple sugar producers say it's a sure sign of spring.

The trade and commerce department reported that production is expected to be below the 1954 figure if the sap continues to flow at its present pace.

The department said Quebec maple trees yielded 2,186,000 gallons of syrup—worth \$9,800,000—in 1954.

The sugar content of this year's sap was about one per cent compared with the normal content of two or three per cent. This, said the department, could reduce the

11,000 Scots Pack Hall As Graham Opens Crusade

GLASGOW (Reuters) — Eleven thousand Scots packed Kelvin Hall here Monday night to hear Billy Graham begin his six-week evangelistic crusade in the land of his ancestors.

Outside, in a smaller hall, an overflow crowd of 4,000 watched the tall, blond North Carolinian make his initial bid to "sell" the bible to Scotland.

Extra squads of police were posted outside because of rumors that gangs of Glasgow waterfront toughs would try to break up the meeting in the country's largest indoor arena.

As the handsome young preacher made his debut over 300 loudspeakers installed specially for the occasion, leaders of the Church of Scotland continued their debate

Commons Rejects Motion By Conservatives To Keep Ministers Off Committees

OTTAWA (CP)—The Commons voted 130 to 36 Monday to reject a Progressive Conservative motion which would have denied cabinet ministers the right to membership on the House's estimates committee when their departments are under review.

The motion by David Fulton (P-C-Kamloops) would have blocked a government move to name Northern Affairs Minister Lesage to the committee, which soon will begin study of northern affairs department spending plans.

The Progressive Conservative proposal found support from only one member of other opposition groups—Harold E. Winch (CCF—Vancouver East). All other CCF members, the Social Credit group and three independents voted with the Liberals.

Mr. Fulton's move was the latest involving procedure of the estimates committee, established this year for the first time. Earlier he had opposed in the com-

Coming Events

- *Card party at East Wiltshire tonight.
- *Dance in Millview Hall Easter Monday.
- *In stock. Complete line of Rubber Footwear. W. I. Bowman.
- *A School Meeting at Winslow Station Hall, Friday, March 25th, at 8.30 p. m.
- *Bingo North Bastion Wednesday 8 p.m. Jackpot \$55. Door prize.
- *Shur Gain Cavalcade, Marshfield Hall, March 25. Send entries to Mrs. Cecil Stetson, Marshfield.
- *A meeting of the Conservative supporters of Southport will be held at Roland Wood's, Wednesday evening at 8. Signed Blake Wood, Chairman.
- *Hockey at North River rink tonight. North River schoolboys vs. Kingston schoolboys 7:30. Hampshire vs. North River in first game of finals. Game time 8:45. Skate after if ice is fit.
- *Craps rink tonight. Cape Traverse Rovers vs. Nine Mile Creek Bulldogs. First game finals for the Board of Trade Trophy. Game time 8:30. Admission \$5, and \$2.50 after 9 p.m.

THE WISE BIRD READS THE ADS AS WELL AS THE SPORTING NEWS!

TORONTO (CP)—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

	Min.	Max.
Dawson	12b	15
Vancouver	35	45
Victoria	39	44
Edmonton	4	20
Calgary	1b	25
Regina	14b	18
Winnipeg	14b	15
Toronto	34	39
Ottawa	18	28
Montreal	19	32
Quebec	10	23
Fredericton	15	34
Saint John	15	33
Moncton	15	33
Halifax	12	33
Charlottetown	15	25
Sydney	15	27
Yarmouth	29	36
St. John's	8	32

HALIFAX (CP)—The Dominion weather office says increasing cloudiness is forecast for the western regions Tuesday but otherwise not much change is expected in the weather over the district.

Forecasts:

Prince Edward Island: Sunny with a few cloudy intervals Tuesday; continuing cold; northerly winds 15. Low-high at Charlottetown 15 and 30.

New Brunswick: Variable cloudiness becoming overcast in the evening; continuing cold; easterly winds 15. Low-high at Moncton 12 and 30, Fredericton 12 and 32, Saint John 15 and 32, Edmundston 10 and 32, Campbellton 8 and 30.

Bay of Fundy: Winds increasing Tuesday afternoon to easterly 20; snow beginning Tuesday afternoon; visibility 15 miles lowering to one to three miles in snow; little change in temperature.

High tide today at Charlottetown at 9.40 a. m. and 9.36 p. m. Summerside tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown. Sun rises today at 6.14 a. m. and sets at 6.27 p. m.