



IN ADDITION to Christmas trees, boughe are shipped from the Maritime Provinces to the U.S. market to provide festive decorations. Edmund LeBlanc ex-

Christmas Tree Is Big Business In The Maritimes

MONCTON—Canadian National Railways is completing arrangements for the movement of millions of Christmas trees from the Maritime Provinces to the United States market. The annual pre-Yule trade is big business for the Maritimes. Last year, 12,000,000 trees were shipped from Canada to the U.S. with a declared value at ports of entry of \$6,225,000. Canadian National Railways moved nearly 2,100 carloads of Christmas trees from Nova Scotia, while in New Brunswick shipments totalled more than 2,400. It's a profitable time for all concerned when the trees are moving out to market and the work is one of the most important seasonal industries in the Maritime Provinces. MARKETS The United States takes 99 per cent of the exports. Largest markets are in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Texas. One of the biggest exporters is J. Hofert (Maritimes) Ltd., Moncton, whose managing director is Lyall F. Scott. Already, this firm has made its first shipment of Christmas trees for 1958. A consignment of balsam fir was sent to New York for transfer to the steamer bound for South Africa. Lee Shepard, Hofert's president, said shipments by C.N.R. freight to the United States market will commence Nov. 15. GRADING Commenting on new U.S. grading regulations, Mr. Shepard said they should have the desired effect of protecting the market. He explained that last year not only was there an over-production but many of the trees were poor in quality. Now, in accordance with the new standards, every yard of trees will be inspected before cutting is allowed. Mr. Shepard added that because of excessive shedding of needles experienced last year after the trees had been delivered, importers were reluctant to place orders early. As a result there would likely be a last minute rush. Despite the heavy job of hauling done by CNR during the rush season, the movement of Christmas trees is so designed by the railway that it does not interfere with other normal freight traffic. Cars are especially allocated for the job. WANT CANADIAN Dealers report that from Maine to Florida there is a preference for Canadian trees, principally because they are mostly balsam fir, which is regarded as the traditional Christmas tree. Another strong point in their favor is their fragrance. Mr. Shepard noted that the budworm spraying program carried out in New Brunswick has improved the Christmas tree industry of the province and put production on an upward trend. From mid-November through the first week in December C.N.R. freight trains will be busy moving the large volume of Christmas trees to U.S. destinations.

Competition Fosters Best And Worst For The Public

By DON PEACOCK Canadian Press Staff Writer OTTAWA (CP)—The best and worst elements of a free economic system like Canada's have been illustrated by business situations recently unraveled under Canadian anti-combines law. In one case it can be seen what happens where businessmen are lured into self-protection by the pressures of competition. The other is an illustration of how competition itself often looks out for the public interest. Last week in Montreal, 14 pulp and paper products manufacturers were fined a total of \$65,000 for conspiracy to fix and control their prices—arrangements that evidence showed had been operating from 1934 to 1953. They were convicted under legislation established in 1939—a year before enactment of the "Sherman Act," the corresponding United States legislation. This makes illegal any contract, agreement or other arrangement that "has operated or is likely to operate to the detriment or against the interest of the public, whether consumers, producers or others." Canada's anti-combines legislation is possibly the chief repository of the principles of the country's economic philosophy. Experts say the courts, by their rulings over the years, have pretty well established the principle that any serious interference with competition is in itself an injury to the public interest—no matter whether any private enterprise benefits or not. In other words, the legislation as currently understood is intended to protect the public by maintaining free competition among Canada's private enterprises. NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL That all private enterprises don't accept this ideal is evident from experience and the existence of the anti-combines legislation. When business interests are found guilty of operating a combine, what does it mean, in plain language? It means certain individuals or companies are considered to have put their heads together to eliminate competition and thereby win control of their products' price—usually in their own interest rather than the public's. In some cases, the firms involved have been enjoying at

U.S. Inventors Council Would Solve 'Impossible'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States needs more help for its armed forces to solve "impossible" problems. Among the tasks: How to make an artificial electric eel, and how to talk over a broken telephone line. The National Inventors Council, a clearing house for ideas which might help the military, will publish an expanded list of technical problems which have baffled defence department engineers and scientists. Everyone is invited to take a crack at them. Ever since 1940, the council has been publishing periodic lists of inventions wanted by the armed forces. The new list adds 82 problems, revises 49 old ones and eliminates 58 which either have been solved or bypassed. One new item is a space satellite to be used to reflect radio waves so they'll travel farther. RULE ON WORTH Outlines of would-be solutions are to be sent to the council. If the scientists and engineers on this panel agree the idea is close to the mark, they'll forward the letter to the proper Pentagon office. From that point, the military will take over. The council itself doesn't buy inventions but the armed forces are authorized to negotiate with inventors for the use of new ideas. The military also want a man-made electric eel. This is the fish which can generate electricity in sea water. The armed forces would use such a device to power amplifiers which would be attached to undersea cables in order to strengthen communications signals. Although only about four per cent of the ideas sent to the inventors council prove worthwhile, scores of apparently impossible problems are solved every year. The new list of problems reveals that the military would like to use chemical warfare against troops on manoeuvres. They want a substance that will activate chemical warfare alarms and actually produce brief physiological symptoms in troops exposed to it.

Colombo Plan Officials Will Hold Stock-taking

Canadian Press Staff Writer OTTAWA (CP)—A global club which costs Canada \$50,000 a year in membership fees holds its annual stock-taking next week. From Monday to Thursday, ministers of Colombo Plan countries will meet in Seattle, Wash., to get up to date on a post-war partnership aimed at aiding 16 countries in south and southeast Asia. The Colombo Plan, variously styled by supporters as a global partnership in service to humanity and as one of the most constructive creative ideas of the century, came into being at Colombo, capital of Ceylon, in January, 1950. Originally conceived as a Commonwealth project, it now embraces 22 members. Those that receive aid, all in south or southeast Asia, are Ceylon, Burma, Cambodia, Malaya, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo. THE DONORS Those that provide aid are Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. From 1950 to mid-1957, donor countries have extended a total of \$3,500,000,000 to recipient nations, mostly in capital projects and technical assistance. Canada, one of the leading contributors, has voted through Parliament about \$230,000,000 to the end of the present fiscal year next March 31. It was announced at Montreal that Canadian aid is to be increased to \$50,000,000 annually from \$35,000,000 for the next three years, starting March 31, 1959. There are some who think Canada should do more.

Oblate Fathers Prepare Brief On Eskimo Affairs

By BERNARD DUFRESNE Canadian Press Staff Writer OTTAWA (CP)—A stormy dispute is brewing between the federal government's northern administrators and Roman Catholic missionaries in the Arctic. The Oblate Fathers, who in 90-odd years of missionary activity in the north have gathered a vast fund of knowledge about Eskimo life, are planning to put their side before the cabinet. The Oblate Fathers' mission on Indian and Eskimo affairs has decided to prepare a voluminous brief about the situation and intends to present it to cabinet ministers whose departments deal with northern affairs. The brief probably will not be made public, but some of the problems which the missionaries blame on northern administrators have come to light in a recent edition of the magazine Eskimo published by the Oblates in the Hudson Bay area. OFFICIALS AWARE R. A. J. Phillips, chief of the northern affairs department's Arctic division, said the department "is very much conscious of the problems in the north and anxious to receive the help and advice of all with experience there." Most Rev. Marc Lacroix, apostolic vicar for Hudson Bay, suggests in an article in the Oblates' magazine that federal administrators in the north are ill-equipped for their jobs and do not make sufficient studies of the problems before imposing solutions. Their solutions to human problems among the Eskimo population, Msgr. Lacroix writes, "start with the premise that everything that is good for the white man is necessarily good for the Eskimo." DISINTEGRATION CITED "There is talk of integration (of the Eskimo) but it is disintegration of Eskimo life that is coming." Mr. Phillips said "the views attributed to the (northern affairs) administration do not in any way reflect the actual views of the administration." The magazine article implies that large-scale activity by the white man in the Arctic during the last few years has resulted in serious problems. "Alcoholism, previously unknown among the Eskimo, now is making ravages; in many places organized prostitution on a large scale has been witnessed and juvenile delinquency, previously non-existent, has become a problem with which the authorities seem unable to cope." INDULGENT OPTIMISM The article says this situation is known to the federal administrators but claims they are taking "the indulgent optimism that

A FRANKLIN CAIRN?

RCAF Sqdn. Ldr. Scott E. Alexander stands beside one of the rock cairns which he found in the Arctic's King William Land and which he believes to have been built by men of the ill-fated expedition of Sir John Franklin. Since the expedition, consisting of 105 men, disappeared in the Arctic wastes 108 years ago, many mementoes of their journeys have been picked up by Eskimos, but the eventual fate of the men was never decided. Alexander, a native of Gambia Island, B.C., who now lives in Toronto, has told his story to government officials in Ottawa. RCAF Sqdn. Ldr. Scott E. Alexander stands beside one of the rock cairns which he found in the Arctic's King William Land and which he believes to have been built by men of the ill-fated expedition of Sir John Franklin. Since the expedition, consisting of 105 men, disappeared in the Arctic wastes 108 years ago, many mementoes of their journeys have been picked up by Eskimos, but the eventual fate of the men was never decided. Alexander, a native of Gambia Island, B.C., who now lives in Toronto, has told his story to government officials in Ottawa. RCAF Sqdn. Ldr. Scott E. Alexander stands beside one of the rock cairns which he found in the Arctic's King William Land and which he believes to have been built by men of the ill-fated expedition of Sir John Franklin. Since the expedition, consisting of 105 men, disappeared in the Arctic wastes 108 years ago, many mementoes of their journeys have been picked up by Eskimos, but the eventual fate of the men was never decided. Alexander, a native of Gambia Island, B.C., who now lives in Toronto, has told his story to government officials in Ottawa.

Stocks Continue Strong In N.Y.

NEW YORK (AP)—The big bull market in stocks rolled on last week, leaving recognized averages at record highs as the week closed. It was the 12th week out of the last 13 in which stocks have advanced. Improving business and hopes for further improvement next year helped the upturn, as did the ever-present inflationary psychology. It was a speculative market, subject to wide price swings on rumors. Typical of this kind of action was Pfizer. It ran up more than eight points Thursday on stock split rumors. On Friday it dropped 2 1/2. Another type of rumor that sparked aggressive buying was tied in with the defence program. General Dynamics was one beneficiary. American Bosch moved up 2 1/2 Friday on this type of rumor. Even that bluest of blue chips—American Telephone and Telegraph—was not safe from the rumors. The stock pierced the 200 mark Monday to the accompaniment of a variety of rumors, including one that the traditional \$9 a year dividend would be increased. Tuesday it sold as high as 202, the best price in 28 years. It ended the week at 200. The most active stock was American Motors, down 1 1/2 at 31 1/2 on 487,000 shares. The most active stock on the American Stock Exchange was Sperry Rand warrants, up 2 at 10 on 166,000 shares. The week's production totalled 2,039,000 net tons and was the largest since the week ending Nov. 3, 1957. Steel said its industrial production index has exceeded last year's comparative index for the first time in 1958. The index is based on steel and electric power.

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GEORGETOWN Mr. William Keeping, Mr. Harold Keeping and their mother, Mrs. A. Cogswell, left recently by car for Florida, U.S.A. where they will reside for the winter. Miss Joan Batchelder, Miss Doreen Scully, Miss Margaret Jean Buchanan and Miss Emily Walsh, students at Notre Dame Academy in Charlottetown, spent the past weekend at their homes in Georgetown. Mr. D. Smith representing Rogers Hardware Ltd., of Charlottetown, called on customers of his

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE NOTICE OF COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS Tuesday, Nov. 18—Hunter River Masonic Hall Wednesday, Nov. 19—Montague High School Auditorium Friday, Nov. 21—O'Leary Public Hall Meetings at 8:00 p.m. All members are invited to attend. Program will include talks by:— Mr. R. C. Parent on Conservation Mr. C. B. Waugh, President of the P. E. I. Federation. Officers of the Potato Producers Association Discussion on "Roads to Resources." Greatly increased membership in the Federation indicates good attendance at these meetings. PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

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