

Economic Advances Look Good

MONTREAL—Greater productivity may well be the key to ensuring Canada's economic advance in 1953, President Lewis W. Simms of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce said today in a year-end message.

There was every reason to believe that despite some regional difficulties the year ahead would see a continuation of a reasonably high level of activity. "Barring unforeseen circumstances there doesn't seem to be anything on the horizon to mar Canada's record as being the greatest economic news story of the last decade," he said. "Canadians can rely on competition and the flexibility of free enterprise to carry the economy through the stresses of 1953."

While business headaches were bound to occur, with continuance of co-operation between government and business, and the exercise of utmost efficiency, the productive system should be able to take care of defence requirements as well as civilian production.

Throughout the year ahead it is important to bear in mind that peace and prosperity do not come by chance. "Indifference and apathy are the greatest enemies to be fought," warned Mr. Simms.

Highlights of the economic outlook for the year ahead on the basis of expert opinion made available to Chamber of Commerce were outlined by Mr. Simms as follows:

TRADE—Possible levelling off in overall trade with Canadian manufacturers likely to find export markets tough and competitive.

CANADIAN DOLLAR—Likely to stay at a premium for the first two months of the year and then show signs of dropping to par or below.

COST-OF-LIVING—Remain fairly stable with a tendency to rise, but only moderately.

EMPLOYMENT—Usual, seasonal unemployment early in the year. Aggregate payrolls, however, likely to stay firm, any trend would likely be slightly upward.



STRIKERS ARRESTED in a clash with provincial police at Louiseville, Que., appear in court at Three Rivers, Que. Sixteen were charged with violating provisions of the Riot Act — read during the disturbance—and two others faced charges of disturbing the peace. A number of strikers at the Associated Textiles plant were injured and one man shot by a provincial policeman during the altercation.

Peace - Loving Policy

Pravda Praises Stalin Statement

LONDON (AP)—Moscow radio on Monday quoted the Soviet newspaper Pravda as saying millions of people will see Stalin's recent statement on international affairs as a "bright new manifestation of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet government."

The broadcast was the first Russian reaction heard here to the Soviet prime minister's answers to four written questions put to him by James Reston, New York Times reporter.

In his replies, Stalin professed a desire to co-operate in any "new diplomatic approach" to end the Korean war and claim Russia is interested in ending it. He also said he regarded favorably the possibility of diplomatic talks with representatives of President-elect Eisenhower

"looking toward the possibility" of a later conference between Eisenhower and himself.

The Moscow broadcast quoted Pravda, organ of the Soviet Communist party, as saying: "Stalin's replies to the New York Times once more stress Soviet readiness to collaborate in work ending the war in Korea."

"Stalin's replies published on the eve of the New Year give hundreds of millions of people new strength in the struggle for peace, for ending the policy of force and aggression, for ending the grasping war against the peace-loving Korean people, for regulating international questions by peaceful talks."

"Millions of people see in these answers a new bright manifestation of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet government."

Foreign diplomats in Moscow said the Stalin answers would put Eisenhower on the spot. They said Russia would benefit in propaganda if the U.S. President-elect refuses negotiations for a meeting with Stalin.

British newspapers generally have cocked a suspicious eye at Stalin's olive branch. The Conservative Daily Telegraph said it would be imprudent to adopt anything but a sceptical attitude toward Stalin's answers. The Liberal News Chronicle, while adopting the same dubious attitude, suggested Stalin's "words should not go unanswered for that would leave him with a propaganda advantage."

Telephone Company Shares Held by 100,000 People

By FORBES RHUDE
Canadian Press Business Editor

MONTREAL (CP)—Bell Telephone Company of Canada now is owned by more than 100,000 people. More than 98,000 of these people—or about 98 per cent—live in Canada, and they hold nearly 90 per cent of the company's 9,600,000 shares.

Nickel Output Not Enough To Meet Needs

By The Canadian Press

The free world's production of nickel this year will total about 315,000,000 pounds, or 20,000,000 pounds more than in 1951.

This estimate is given in a year-end review of the nickel industry by Dr. John F. Thompson, chairman of the board of the International Nickel Company of Canada, Ltd.

The free world's production, Dr. Thompson says, is believed to be more than five times that of the rest of the world. Canada supplies 90 per cent of it, or about 280,000,000 pounds this year.

Concerning the supply situation, reports indicate the free-world nickel supplies are not now adequate to meet large government stockpile objectives simultaneously with unrestricted civilian consumption and the requirements of defence programs.

"Nickel-bearing scrap is flowing in easier supply and direct defence orders have been spread over a longer period, thus helping to relieve some of the demand for the metal."

Dr. Thompson said that throughout the world the search for new deposits of nickel is being pushed at an unprecedented rate. International Nickel, the world's largest producer, expects to complete this coming year a \$150,000,000 program in connection with underground mining expansion at its operations in the Sudbury district.

This, Dr. Thompson says, will give International an annual capacity of 13,000,000 tons of ore entirely from underground operations, assuring maintenance of the current yearly rate of approximately 250,000,000 pounds of refined nickel.

Falconbridge Nickel Mines, Ltd. in Northern Ontario, Canada's second largest producer, is engaged in an expansion program designed to give it an annual capacity in 1954 of 35,000,000 pounds.

Sheritt-Gordon Mines, Ltd. is developing a nickel-copper deposit at Lynn Lake, in northern Manitoba, and is building a 17,000,000-pound annual capacity refinery near Edmonton, scheduled for completion in 1953.

The fact that the number of Bell shareholders has passed the 100,000-mark means there are four times as many shareholders as there were only seven years ago.

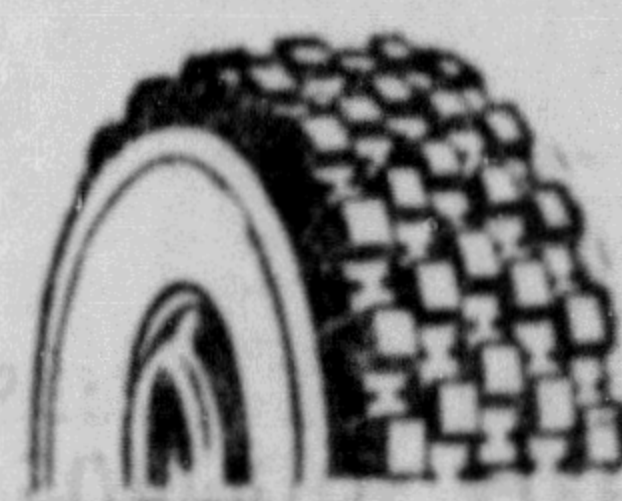
Bell thus illustrates, in striking fashion, the process by which ownership of large companies is passing into the hands of a steadily increasing number of people, and the extent to which Canadians are buying into their own country. The approximate 10 per cent of Bell shares held outside Canada includes the less than eight per cent held by American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Four times a year the company's regular quarterly dividend cheques are mailed to people in cities and towns, villages and hamlets across Canada. Dividends have been paid every year for the past 72 years.

There are shareholders in every province, but most of them are in Ontario and Quebec, where the company operates.

Light For Safety

LONDON — Mounted police carried lights for the first time in regular service when they escorted the 2nd battalion Coldstream Guards on a recent march through the city. Use of such lights has increased since last year's accident at Chatham when 23 marching naval cadets were killed.



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HALIFAX — Although there is a poor demand there are plenty of bunnies on sale here. "People just aren't buying bunnies. I guess it's not cold enough to give that rabbit stew feeling one dealer said.

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Clergymen Solve Problem Of Caring For Children

SYDNEY, Australia (CP)—It's an old problem—what to do with the children on Saturday mornings.

Two clergymen in a Tasmanian parish helped parents to find the answer. Canon I. J. R. Macdonald and Rev. John Collings, aided by their wives, started a work-

shop for neighboring children and nearly 100 youngsters attended every Saturday morning.

In the corner of the parish hall of the Anglican church is a stamp club run by an enthusiastic stamp collector of the parish. In another part of the hall is the singing class. In another corner is an art class. The beginners are doing charcoal drawings; the more experienced work with water colors.

Outside, the physical culture classes are in full swing, and so is the tennis class. Plans for drama, carpentry and sewing classes are under way.

Most of the youngsters are those who already go to the church's Sunday school, and most are from 10 to 14. Each Saturday opens with a prayer.

Judge Rejects Guilty Plea From Woman

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Grandma, who pulled a toy gun on a bank teller once too often, has revealed herself as a one-time daughter of a wealthy man, educated at the best schools, polished by travel in Europe.

But, she said, her father lost his \$20,000,000 fortune in the crash of 1929, and she turned to robbery when arthritis crippled her hands. She insisted it was a Robin Hood sort of career—she gave her money to others.

Charged in three counts of bank robbery, Mrs. Ethel Arata, 52, told Judge Howard V. Calverly that she wished to plead guilty and did not want a lawyer. But he ordered her plea delayed until Jan. 9 to give a grand jury a chance to look into her case.

She was captured Christmas Eve by the manager of a bank in nearby Arcadia, moments after she failed to bluff a woman teller with a toy pistol. Later, to police, she admitted she held up bank branches on Oct. 17 and Nov. 26, getting a total of \$1,466.

The Plata river system in Argentina is the second largest in the world, next to the Amazon system.



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