

### CANADA AT 13 FAIRS:

Canada is participating during 1957 in thirteen international and industry trade fairs, the purpose of which is to assist Canadian exporters in securing a larger proportion of the market for their products in the countries concerned. The first in this series is the Royal Netherlands Industries Fair, which opened April 2 in Utrecht, where household appliances and other consumer items are being shown.

There will be Canadian displays at the Brussels International Trade Fair, the German Industries Fair, in Hannover, the Poznan International Trade Fair, the Vienna International Trade Fair and the Colombia International Trade Fair, in Bogota. Arrangements have also been made for the provision of a Canadian Government information booth at the United States World Trade Fair, to be held later this month in New York, and at the Chicagoland Fair, organized by the Chicago

\* \* \*

**ATLANTIC SEAL FISHERY.** Gay bunting fluttering in the early morning breeze, the moan and shriek of ship's whistles and the lusty cheering of seal hunters last month signalled the start of Canada's annual seal fishery.

Ships sail each year from Halifax and St. John's, but it is at St. John's, historic sealing centre, that the departure of the sealing fleet is the occasion of widespread celebration. It is the time-honoured custom there to give the sturdy ships and their adventurous crews a rousing send-off.

Increased interest is being shown in the seal fishery this year. Newfoundland firms sent five vessels "to the ice" compared with three in 1956, and there are about eight from Halifax.

Last year, a total of 11 Canadian vessels prosecuted the seal fishery and brought in 154,092 seals. In addition, landsmen took an estimated 50,000 seals. The ships operate off the northeast coast of Newfoundland or in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, while the landsmen make daily treks across ice-covered bays to take seals near the shore.

The only other country participating in this fishery is Norway. Last year the Norwegian fleet consisted of ten ships whose catch amounted to 202,085 seals. Norway co-operates with Canada in the observance of specified dates prior to which no seals may be taken.

The seal fishery always has been, and still is, a gamble from start to finish. The sealers who are paid on a "share" basis, may take home as little as \$5 or \$10 for a month's work or, if fate is kind, up to \$500. This uncertainty doesn't dampen the exuberant spirit that characterizes the sealer. He is there, good prospects or poor, to take part in a great adventure that has become a tradition.

Association of Commerce and Industry, which opens on June 28.

Specialized shows in Great Britain and the United States, such as the Building Products Exhibition, in London, the Popular Price Shoe Show and National Winter Sports Show, in New York, and the National Shoe Show, in Chicago, will provide facilities for the display of Canadian footwear, wood and wood products, footwear and winter sports clothing and equipment.

The Canadian Showroom in Rockefeller Centre, which has been in operation since December 1951, will continue to feature a variety of Canadian products in separate shows throughout the year. Rubber products and wall-paper have already been shown. Provision has been made for the display of Canadian church furniture, fish products and those items which have been awarded certificates of merit by the National Industrial Design Council.

**WAGE INCREASES.** Salary and wage increases were received by police constables, firefighters and civic labourers in more than 50 Canadian municipalities during 1956, according to information released by the Department of Labour.

The information was based on a survey of 77 municipalities across Canada conducted by the Labour Department's Economics and Research Branch. A total of 73 cities or towns reported on wages and salaries of which 52 or 70 per cent reported increases to police constables. In the case of firefighters 51 municipalities reported increases.

Highest salaries for both police constables and firefighters were paid in Toronto, Windsor, New Westminster and Vancouver, and to firefighters in Prince Rupert, B.C. These employees received salaries in excess of \$4,000 per year. These salaries represent "maximum basic salary" for police constables and firemen which is the rate paid after the probationary and training period has been completed, but before long-term service increases are obtained.

Hourly wage rates for labourers are those paid to workers in that category in the works department of the municipalities. Labourers in other civic departments are often paid at the same rates. Wage rates for civic labourers in 1956 varied from 75 cents an hour in Charlotte-town, P.E.I. to \$1.68 per hour in Vancouver. Hourly increases between 1955 and 1956 ranged from 1.5 cents in Sorel, P.Q. to 20 cents in St. Thomas, Ont. The average hourly increase for civic labourers was 6 cents in 59 cities.

Weekly hours of work for police constables, firefighters and civic labourers were reduced in 1956 in about 11 per cent of the reporting municipalities.