

A comparison of the total refinery consumption of domestic and imported crudes with total installed capacity indicates that the operation ratio of the petroleum-refining industry in December 1956 was 97 per cent.

Cracked-Gasoline Capacity—The Canadian petroleum-refining industry had facilities at the end of 1955 capable of producing cracked gasoline at the rate of 183,370 barrels a day. This capacity was 11.1 per cent above the 1955 year-end capacity. Thermal-type units accounted for 16.6 per cent, catalytic-type cracking units for 55.9 per cent, and reformed types for 27.5 per cent of the total cracked-gasoline capacity. An appreciable increase in catalytic reforming has taken place at the expense of thermal operations: the 1953 year-end cracked gasoline capacity consisted of 28.6 per cent thermal type units, 55 per cent catalytic and 16.4 per cent reformed types.

Natural Gasoline Plants—Total capacity of natural gasoline plants at the end of 1956 was 401.5 M M cu. ft. of natural gas, an increase of 27.5 per cent over the 1955 capacity. All plants, including three new ones which came into operation during the year, are in Alberta. However, a 300 M M cu. ft. per day plant is being built at Taylor, British Columbia and is scheduled for completion late in 1957 while a 60 M M cu. ft. per day installation was completed early in 1957 at Pincher Creek, Alberta. With the completion of these plants the total capacity of natural gasoline plants in Canada will be double the 1955 year's end capacity.

CANADIANS TAKE TO AIR: Canadian air carriers reported that 1956 was their most active year in history, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics preliminary annual report on civil aviation. Operating revenue increased over 18 per cent to \$180,531,000 from \$152,739,000 in 1955, operating expenses nearly 17 per cent to \$171,553,000 from \$146,655,000. For the sixth straight year operating income was larger than a year earlier, 1956's total rising almost 48 per cent to a record \$8,970,000 from 1955's total of \$6,084,000 and was over 28 per cent larger than 1951's previous high of \$6,991,000.

All revenue accounts showed substantial gains over the preceding year. Revenue from passenger fares jumped to \$96,242,000 from \$77,598,000, goods carried to \$9,202,000 from \$7,952,000, mail to \$11,534,000 from \$10,905,000, excess baggage receipts to \$1,156,000 from \$863,000, and bulk transportation to \$52,457,000 from \$44,543,000.

All expense accounts were larger than a year earlier. Costs of aircraft operation and maintenance climbed to \$106,144,000 from \$90,505,000, ground operation and maintenance to \$38,659,000 from \$32,909,000, traffic to \$16,079,000 from \$13,898,000, general admini-

stration costs to \$9,906,000 from \$8,724,000, and general taxes to \$765,000 from \$619,000.

A total of 3,317,000 passengers were carried by Canadian air carriers in 1956, a rise of 22 per cent from 1955's total of 2,717,000. Unit toll services carried 2,797,000 persons versus 2,311,000 a year earlier and bulk or charter services carried 520,000 versus 406,000. Weight of airmail handled increased to 25,570,000 pounds from the preceding year's 24,267,000 pounds.

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ROYAL VISIT: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip will spend several days in Ottawa, according to announcements made last week by Government House and the Prime Minister's office. They are scheduled to visit the United States October 16-21 and will be guests at Government House in Ottawa prior to crossing the International Boundary.

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CHICAGOLAND FAIR: The Department of Trade and Commerce has released further details of Canada's participation in the Chicagoland Fair, which is taking place from June 28 to July 14 at the Chicago, Ill., Navy Pier.

Seven exhibitors will appear in the Canadian section of the Fair: the Government of Canada, Department of Trade and Commerce, 1,000 square feet; Province of Manitoba, Department of Commerce and Industry 650 square feet; Province of Alberta, Department of Economic Affairs, 300 square feet; Province of British Columbia, Department of Industrial Development, 300 square feet; Industrial Shipping Co. Ltd., Mahone Bay, N.S., 400 square feet; Trans Canada Air Lines, 150 square feet; Essex Packers, Hamilton, Ont., 100 square feet. The Canadian section featuring trade, industry and travel will appear among the displays of the 200 exhibitors which will line both ranges of the long Navy Pier.

To mark Canada's participation, July 1 has been designated "Canada Day" at the Fair and special features are being arranged for the occasion. Three Canadian Navy escort ships will tie up at the pier for three days and the Association of Commerce and Industry of Chicago will honour Canada at a luncheon at which Mr. W.F. Bull, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce and Ambassador Designate to Japan will be the guest speaker. To symbolize Western Canada's interest in Chicago, TCA will fly in Princess Crowfoot of the Blackfoot Indians of Alberta and she will visit the Fair in full regalia. A tableau will stress the importance of the St. Lawrence and Mississippi Waterways to Chicago. Later the Canadian Consul General will hold a reception. Apart from the press coverage and a radio broadcast from the Canadian section on July 1, other special promotions will feature Canada; four half-hour television programmes are being arranged before and during the Fair.