

Dealing with claims filed by contractors engaged on Seaway construction, the report states that claims settled to date amount to \$3,643,000 and involved payments of \$2,895,000, most of which related to unit-price adjustments arising from reclassification of material excavated or dredged. The investigation of claims for a face amount of \$26,300,000 has been completed and offers of settlement involving about \$1,750,000 have been, or are in course of being, made. There remains a balance of claims totalling \$13,900,000 still under investigation.

The report also gives an account of the management of the Lachine, Cornwall and Sault Ste Marie canals, which were entrusted to the Authority for operation from April 1, 1959, and the expenses of which are recoverable from Parliamentary appropriations. Operating deficit and capital expenditures for the period were \$1,655,000.

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### NEW ONTARIO UNIVERSITY

Four bills passed by the Ontario Legislature will create the bilingual Laurentian University of Sudbury, Ontario (non-denominational), with which will be federated the present University of Sudbury (Catholic), the new University of Lalemant College (Catholic) and the new Huntington University (United Church). An Anglican university may be established within the federation at a later date.

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### JANUARY EARNINGS

Weekly wages in manufacturing averaged \$71.96 in January, compared to \$68.48 in December. Hourly earnings were \$1.77, against \$1.78; and the work-week was 40.7, against 38.5 hours. In January of last year, weekly wages averaged \$69.28, hourly earnings \$1.70, and the work-week 40.6 hours.

The work-week lengthened in January in durable goods manufacturing to 41.1 from 39.0 hours in December and average weekly wages rose to \$79.10 from \$74.72. Average hourly earnings were unchanged at \$1.92, reduced overtime in smelting and refining and a longer work-week in industries paying below the general average counterbalancing the effect of overtime in the automotive industry.

The work-week increased during the month, in the production of non-durable goods, to 40.3 from 38.1 hours during the preceding month, and average weekly wages rose to \$64.97 from \$62.39, while average hourly earnings decreased to \$1.61 from \$1.64. These changes were due in part to the return to normal operations in leather and clothing factories.

The January work-week in mining increased to 41.3 hours from 39.5 in December. Average hourly earnings were unchanged at \$2.08, and average weekly wages rose to \$85.83 from

\$82.05. A longer work-week in Nova Scotia coal mines contributed to the gain in average weekly wages. Average weekly wages in construction rose to \$78.08 from \$64.40, owing to further seasonal lay-offs of lower-paid wage-earners and a longer work-week.

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### "AUTOMATED" ORE-MILL

A new, highly-automated ore-milling plant has been opened by The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, in the Sudbury area of Ontario in the latest step in a continuing programme to counter rising costs with increased production efficiency through technological advances.

The modern mill, built at a cost of \$12 million, makes extensive use of instrumentation to permit centralized, and in some cases automatic, control of the crushing, grinding, floatation, and dewatering processes involved in the production of concentrates from ore. All operations are controlled from centrally-located instrument panels. Many recently-developed techniques, such as the use of radioactive isotopes for making density measurements, have been incorporated in the new plant.

The mill is among additions and improvements the company is carrying out at its properties in the Sudbury area which, with the new nickel-mining project being developed at Thompson, Manitoba, will raise Inco's nickel production capacity to 385,000,000 pounds a year by 1961. This Levack installation brings to three the number of ore-milling plants operated by Inco at its nickel mines in the Sudbury area, the free world's greatest source of nickel.

The Levack mill has a capacity of 6,000 tons of ore a day. Crushed ore from the Levack mine No. 2 Shaft is conveyed directly into a concrete silo-type bin with a live capacity of 3,000 tons. Two parallel conveyors feed the coarse ore to two seven-foot cone crushers, which reduce it to minus three-quarters of an inch in size. The crushed ore is then conveyed to three large circular concrete bins with a total live capacity of 16,000 tons. A special screening process removes the wood chips *en route*. Automation is used to assist in this crushing operation. The crushers, crusher oil pumps, screens, variable-speed ore feeders and conveyors are all operated and controlled from a central instrument panel where lights indicate what equipment is in service. The occurrence of trouble in operation equipment sounds an alarm on the control panel and gives a visual indication of the trouble. An indicating and recording weightometer on the panel shows the tonnage of ore being crushed.

The two grinding units each consist of a 15-foot rod mill, a 14-foot ball mill, and two cone classifiers. A central instrument panel controls the entire grinding operation.