

AWARDS TO SEAGOING WEATHERMEN

Masters and other officers on 38 merchant and government ships have received a total of 55 Department of Transport awards for excellence in their voluntary work of making weather observations during 1964.

In announcing the awards, J.R.H. Noble, director of the Department's Meteorological Branch, said knowledge of weather conditions over the vast expanses of the world's oceans was dependent almost entirely on the reports received from merchant vessels and others. Out of a world total of about 4,000, Canada has 122 ships that report weather conditions regularly. In 1964, Canadian ships made approximately 33,000 reports. Some 50 vessels, sailing from east and west coast ports, travel to the Far East, Australia, South Africa and Europe. About 35 send their observations from eastern and western coastal waters and the Canadian Arctic. The weather on the Great Lakes is now being reported by 38 more.

REPORTING ROUTINE

Four times a day, at fixed hours, the ships' officers

take a few minutes out from their regular shipboard duties to record pressure, temperature, wind, humidity, clouds, visibility, waves, and several other aspects of the weather prevailing at the time. They transform all this information into a condensed code known the world over and hand the report to the ship's radio officer, who transmits it to the nearest coast radio station, which in turn relays it to the meteorological service of the country concerned. This message, together with hundreds of others, is used immediately by meteorologists ashore to prepare forecasts for the mariners themselves, for aviation, the general public, and numerous other agencies.

By tradition, ships' officers receive no payment for their weather-observing duties. However, in return, they receive from the Meteorological Branch weather advice in the form of forecasts, bulletins and maps by radio and facsimile, which are based on the reports they have made themselves only a few hours earlier.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

(Continued from p. 2)

During the first quarter of 1965, the current cyclical expansion in production was in its sixteenth quarter and non-agricultural real output had reached a level 27 percent above its first quarter 1961 cyclical trough. The current expansion has thus been of considerably longer duration than either the 1954-56 upturn, which lasted for ten quarters and achieved a gain of 22 per cent, or the nine-quarter long 1957-60 upswing, which resulted in a 10 percent increase.

LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS

Manufacturing, trade and construction were the largest contributors to the first-quarter gain in non-agricultural real output, with manufacturing accounting for almost one-third of the advance, and the other two groups for about one-fifth each. The 2.5 percent increase in manufacturing output came from a 6 percent increase in the durables component, as non-durables declined fractionally. Within durables, the most important single influence was the attainment of new high levels in motor-vehicle and parts production, resulting in a 23 percent advance in transportation equipment from the fourth quarter. This followed upon sharp declines in the fourth quarter of 1964, when labour disputes in the industry affected production levels particularly strongly. All other major groups within durables also showed increases in the first quarter, with the exception of wood products, which declined by 1 per cent.

Within trade, which advanced by 3 per cent, the wholesale-trade component showed the larger increase (7 per cent), while retail trade was up by about 1 per cent. As in manufacturing, motor-vehicle dealer sales were the largest contributors to the increase. Declines occurred in the sales of building

materials and construction-equipment dealers, again paralleled in manufacturing by declines in the production of many building materials, such as paints and varnishes, roofing paper and wire products.

Among the remaining industry groups, increases of 2 per cent and 3 per cent occurred in electric power and gas utilities, and mining, respectively, while forestry was up by 8 per cent. Transportation showed no change from the previous quarter, following more than a year of uninterrupted expansion at high levels of activity. Construction was up by 6 per cent, while 1 percent increases were recorded by the rest of the service-industry groups.

LARGER CANADA COUNCIL GRANTS

More numerous and, in most cases, more generous fellowships in the humanities, the social sciences and the fine arts have been announced by the Canada Council for the academic year 1966-67. Five competitions, providing for an estimated 700 awards worth in excess of \$2 million, are listed in the programme, details of which are available from the Council's Fellowships Section. The largest awards, for established scholars and artists, will range up to \$5,500 - \$1,000 more than last year.

In last year's programme (for awards tenable during 1965-66), the Council had announced, for the same five categories, a total of 380 awards, worth about \$935,000. By re-allocating funds and cutting the value of some awards, the Council, was able, in fact, to grant 533 scholarships and fellowships, worth about \$1,250,000. The programme now being announced calls for expenditures of \$800,000 in excess of that sum.

DETAILS OF AWARDS

In the humanities and social sciences, the programme offers pre-doctoral fellowships, intended in