

fares. The travel component was higher, with increases in some inter-urban bus fares.

The index for health and personal care decreased 0.2 per cent, from 155.3 to 155.0. The health-care component declined as lower prices for prescriptions in the pharmaceutical index outweighed price increases for other items in this group. The personal-care component edged upward, owing to price increases for a number of supplies, including toilet soap, tooth-paste, face cream and powder.

The recreation and reading index declined 0.1 per cent from 146.0 to 145.8. The reading index was unchanged, but the recreation index decreased as a result of lower prices for several items, including sports equipment. The tobacco and alcohol index was unchanged at 115.8.

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### SWISS ENVOY INSTALLED

On July 7, His Excellency Dr. Alfred Zehnder presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Switzerland to Canada. The ceremony took place at Government House. Mr. Jean Côté of the Protocol Division, Department of External Affairs, presented the Ambassador to the Governor-General. Mr. G.P. de T. Glazebrook, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Esmond Butler, Secretary to the Governor-General, were in attendance on the Governor-General on this occasion.

The Ambassador was accompanied by the following members of his staff: Dr. Jean Widmer, Counsellor; Mr. Charles H. Steinhauslin, Secretary; Colonel Werner Koch, Military and Air Attaché.

Dr. Zehnder has been in the Swiss diplomatic service since 1925. He was Ambassador of Switzerland to the Soviet Union before his appointment as Ambassador to Canada.

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### APRIL CREDIT STATISTICS

Balances outstanding on credit extended on the books of sales finance companies (for consumer goods), small loan companies, department stores, furniture and appliance stores, and chartered banks (for personal loans) amounted to \$3,072 million at the end of April this year, up 7.2 per cent from \$2,866 million at the end of April last year.

End-of-April outstandings on the books of sales finance companies for consumer goods decreased to \$786 million from \$804 million at the end of April 1960, and furniture and appliance stores to \$186 million from \$189 million. End-of-month outstandings held by small loan companies increased to \$551 million from \$505 million a year ago, department stores to \$328 million from \$290 million, and personal loans at chartered banks to \$1,241 million from \$1,078 million.

### INCO FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Ten postgraduate fellowships have been awarded to Canadian students by The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, as one phase of its extensive educational-aid programme, in which \$2,860,000 has been spent over the past five years. Since the commencement of Inco's fellowship programme in 1951, 51 awards, many tenable for more than one year, have been granted for postgraduate studies at Canadian universities.

Of the ten awards now announced, five are new fellowships and five are renewals of previous awards. Each has a maximum tenure of three years, providing an annual stipend of \$2,000 to the student and an annual supporting grant of \$500 to the university.

The ten recipients are completing advanced studies in a wide range of subjects including metallurgy, mathematics, physics, geology, geophysics and chemistry.

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### WINTER WHEAT SUPPORT PRICE

Winter wheat produced in Ontario during the period from July 1 this year to June 30, 1962, will be supported at \$1.39 a bushel on track, for No. 2 Canada Eastern grade, or better quality, Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton announced in the House of Commons recently.

This is the same support level as applied a year ago, and it amounts to 83 per cent of the base price or 10-year average of \$1.67 a bushel.

The 1961 Ontario winter wheat crop is estimated to be about 20 million bushels, an increase of almost 15 per cent over the 1960 production.

The Agricultural Stabilization Board has been authorized to pay producers the equivalent of the amount by which the support price exceeds the average price of No. 2 Canada Eastern grade winter wheat sold for milling or export purposes.

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### MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCTION

With decreases from a year earlier in each of the first six months of this year, output of motor vehicles in the January-June period fell 12.8 per cent to 222,136 units from 254,789 in the like half of 1960. June production was down to 41,645 units from 41,924 a year earlier.

Production of passenger cars in the first half of 1961 declined 11.9 per cent to 184,268 units from 209,062 a year ago, while the half-year output of commercial vehicles dropped 17.2 per cent to 37,868 units from 45,727. Passenger-car output was larger in June, the first increase this year from a year earlier, at 34,510 units against 34,369, and commercial vehicle production was smaller in the month at 7,135 units against 7,555.