

**ATOM RESEARCH SPEEDED:** The NRX reactor at Chalk River, Ont., which recently went back into operation after a shutdown of fourteen months, is now operating at a power output 33 per cent higher than before it broke down on December 12, 1952, according to a statement by the Minister of Defence Production, Mr. Howe, on April 5.

The main result of the increased power output of the rebuilt reactor will be that a shorter time will be required for many research experiments, and for the production of radioactive isotopes. Furthermore, tests being made with the NRX reactor of components for the new NRU reactor, which is now under construction, will be more effective. The NRX reactor now gives irradiations nearer to those expected in the NRU reactor.

During the reconstruction of the NRX reactor, the Chalk River scientists and engineers made modifications, which they expected would greatly increase the density of the neutrons within the reactor. Their aim has now been reached by steady operation of the reactor at 40,000 kilowatts. Before the reactor broke down, its top power output was 30,000 kilowatts.

The attainment of such a high power output from so small a natural uranium reactor is an important scientific achievement.

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**CIVIL DEFENCE COLLEGE:** At a ceremony attended by top-ranking Civil Defence officials from Great Britain and the United States as well as from all ten Canadian provinces, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, and the Minister of National Revenue, Dr. James J. McCann, officiated at the opening of the federal Government's new Canadian Civil Defence College at Arnprior, Ont., on March 29.

Designed to provide a continuing supply of fully qualified key personnel and instructors to carry on Civil Defence training in the provinces, the Arnprior College is one of the best-equipped Civil Defence training grounds in the world. The college expects to graduate some 2,000 trainees annually in all fields of civil defence.

Situated just outside this Ottawa Valley town on the site of a former R.C.A.F. airdrome, the College has redesigned and rebuilt many of the existing structures to meet the special needs of civil defence training. One of the most striking features of the school is the extensive "Rescue Set" composed of a number of carefully demolished buildings of various types designed to give realistic training to embryo rescue workers.

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Shipyards did \$82,573,815 worth of work on new vessels in 1952, more than in any year since the war and \$39,588,347 or nearly 90% more than in 1951.

**IMPORTS DECLINE:** Mainly as a result of reduced purchases from the United States, Canada's commodity imports in January declined 14.6% in value to \$280,200,000 from \$327,800,000 a year earlier, according to final figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Commodity-wise the decline was mainly centred in the fibres and textiles, iron and products, and miscellaneous commodities groups. Final totals for exports amounted to \$265,400,000, resulting in an import surplus of \$14,800,000 as compared with \$6,600,000 in 1953.

Average prices of imports were slightly higher in January than in the same month of 1953, the drop in total value being due to reduced volume. Besides the declines in the fibres, iron, and miscellaneous commodities groups, there were more moderate decreases in non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals, and chemicals. Only two groups - agricultural and vegetable products, and wood and paper products - were higher in value.

Additional to the drop in imports from the United States, there were small declines in purchases from the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries, and foreign countries other than Latin America and Europe, those from the two latter showing increases.

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**AIR DIVISION RE-EQUIPPING:** The fifth anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization finds Canada's Air Division overseas fully operational and in the process of re-equipping with the latest Mark F-86 Sabre jets, it was announced April 3 by Air Force Headquarters.

Last year in Operation Leap Frog Four the last three Sabre squadrons flew the Atlantic to complete the 12-squadron team of the Air Division. Now, Mark 5 Sabres, with Canadian-built Orenda engines are being ferried across to the four stations to increase the effectiveness of these fighter squadrons. Orenda engines give the Sabres 1500 pounds more thrust, enabling them to climb and fly faster with an increased ceiling. The first of these new aircraft arrived at No. 4 Wing at Baden-Soellingen, Germany in February.

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**OVERSEAS TOUR:** A group of 32 students and directing staff officials from the National Defence College at Kingston, Ont., departed from Ottawa by RCAF aircraft on April 3 for a two-month tour of the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East.

The party will include senior officers from the three services and Canadian, British and United States officials from governmental departments and industry. Purpose of the tour is to familiarize students with conditions in other nations as they may effect the defence of Canada.