

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index increased a fractional 0.1 per cent between the beginning of July and August 1961 to 129.1 from 129.0. Increases in the food, transportation, recreation-and-reading, and tobacco-and-alcohol components more than balanced decreases in the clothing, and health and personal-care components. The housing component was unchanged.

The food index rose 0.3 per cent to 125.3 from 124.9, as a result of price increases for bread combined with higher prices, some seasonally, for eggs, some fresh and canned fruits, coffee, powered skim milk, pork and some beef cuts. Lower prices were reported for most fresh vegetables, particularly, potatoes and tomatoes, and for oranges, bananas, weiners, turkey and some cuts of beef.

The housing index was unchanged at 132.9, as a fractional upward movement occurred in the household-operation component, but the shelter component was unchanged. In household operation, higher prices for fuel, floor coverings, textiles and household supplies offset sale prices for furniture and power lawn-mowers. In shelter, the rent index declined as a result of lower prices for tenant repairs, while the home-ownership index increased because of higher property taxes.

### CLOTHING COSTS

The slight decline of 0.1 per cent in the clothing index to 112.1 from 112.2 resulted largely from sale prices in women's wear, notably cotton street dresses. Scattered price movements were offsetting in men's and children's wear. Footwear prices were unchanged, while piece goods declined fractionally. The transportation index increased 0.2 per cent to 139.0 from 138.7, as a result of higher gasoline prices in the automobile operation component.

The health and-personal-care index declined 0.3 per cent to 154.6 from 155.1, owing to a decrease in the health-care component. Lower prices for prescriptions and vitamins in the pharmaceutical index outweighed price increases for other items in this group. The personal-care component was unchanged, as higher prices for shaving-cream, toothbrushes and face-powder were balanced by lower prices for tooth-paste and cleansing tissues.

The recreation-and-reading index rose 0.3 per cent to 145.4 from 145.0. The reading index was unchanged, but the recreation index rose as a result of higher prices for admissions to professional football games in eastern and western Canada. The tobacco-and-alcohol index rose 0.3 per cent to 116.1 from 115.8, with higher prices in both components.

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## UNDERGROUND AIR NAVIGATION AID

By next year, aircraft on the Edmonton-Vancouver airway will be guided by the world's first underground radio range, set in the top of a mountain, the Department of Transport has announced. The Department expects to award the contract later this year for a \$200,000 combined very-high-frequency omnidirectional range (VOR) and tactical air-navigation

(TAGAN) station to be located just below the surface at the top of a 7,000-foot mountain 16 miles northwest of Enderby, British Columbia. The site is the highest point in the area.

Like all of Canada's 36 VOR installations (and 14 more under construction), the Enderby station will be unmanned.

The equipment to be housed in the structure calls for a round, flat, unobstructed platform 300 feet in diameter. Rather than extending the building's flat roof to that size, the Department found that it would be cheaper to shear the peak off the mountain and bury the station beneath it.

This will be Canada's first mountain-top VOR station and the world's first to be built underground. It is expected to be operational late in 1962.

The 12-sided concrete structure itself will have a diameter of 52 feet. A tunnel will connect it with the side of the mountain.

Technicians from Enderby will visit the station periodically and emergency shelter for an overnight stay will be provided in the building.

Annual snowfall at the site is 12 to 15 feet.

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## RESTORE GOLD RUSH THEATRE

The restoration of the 61-year-old Palace Grand Theatre in Dawson City, Yukon Territory, was further advanced with the awarding of a \$277,036 building contract to a British Columbia construction company. The reconstructed building will be exactly the same as the old theatre of Gold Rush days. However, to meet present-day safety standards, it will be placed on pilings and will have water, sewer and improved electrical services, as well as fire-protection facilities.

When completed, the new Palace Grand will serve as a focal point for the Yukon Gold Rush Festival now being organized by Tom Patterson, founder of the Stratford Shakesperian Festival. Mr. Patterson is confident that the revival of the romance of the Trail of '98 will become the basis for another successful annual Canadian festival.

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## WHOOPING CRANES SIGHTED

Eleven adult whooping cranes and three young-of-the-year have been sighted by the Canadian Wildlife Service on the nesting grounds of the big white birds in Wood Buffalo National Park. National Resources Minister Walter Dinsdale said recently that the sightings had been made from a helicopter on August 25 in the Sass River area. Three pairs, each with one young, were seen, as well as two pairs without young and one individual in flight. The lack of feeding tracks suggests that two of the pairs with young are recent arrivals in the area and that the young are flying.

Additional counts will be made by the Canadian Wildlife Service before the whooping cranes begin the 2600-mile autumn flight to their wintering grounds in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the coast of Texas.

Thirty-six "whoopers" completed the long flight southward last year. Because of a real danger that

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