

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROGRESS, 1949: During 1949 the post-war boom in hydro-electric construction continued without abatement. Although no new large plants were brought into operation, an appreciable increase in the total of installed capacity in Canada accrued from additional units coming into operation in existing stations, principally in those which were partially completed last year. Also excellent progress was achieved on other developments actively under way, the labour situation and the availability of materials being relatively favourable throughout the year.

Installed capacity in Canada which, with the addition of 272,050 h.p. located in the new Province of Newfoundland, now totals 11,622,668 h.p., was increased during the year by 479,900 h.p.; this increase is slightly greater than that of 1948 and is well in excess of pre-war yearly rate of expansion of about 300,000 h.p. A number of large developments which are in a state of advanced construction will add about 1,500,000 h.p. within the next two years, while other developments are in the preliminary stages of construction or are definitely planned; also, more long-range plans and investigations envisage the development of other sites, several of high capacity.

POWER DISTRIBUTION

In the field of power distribution, construction similarly was very active. New main transmission lines were completed or were under construction in most sections of the country. Many new transformer stations and sub-stations were built and secondary lines were extended. Rural electrification was particularly active in Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba.

During the year the demand for hydro-electric energy continued to expand throughout the country as a result of a high level of industrial activity in conjunction with increased commercial, domestic and rural consumption. The increased over-all demand is reflected in the consumption of primary power which, according to the records of the Bureau of Statistics for the first ten months of 1949, increased 3.1 per cent over that for the same period of 1948, the previously high year, and 12.9 per cent over 1947. However, despite the additions to generating capacity which were made in 1948 and 1949, total production of central electric stations in 1949 was only 2.8 per cent greater than that of 1947. Generally speaking, stream flow conditions were unfavourable for a considerable part of the year and, at times, some of the large hydro-electric systems had difficulty in meeting all power demands. The completion of a number of the larger plants which are now under construction will be necessary before essential reserve capacity becomes available.

JEAN MONNET TO OPEN FAIR: Jean Monnet, eminent French financial authority will open the third Canadian International Trade Fair in Toronto next May.

In making this announcement on January 9, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, expressed deep appreciation of M. Monnet's acceptance of the invitation recently extended to him by the Government of Canada. The first Canadian Trade Fair was opened by His Excellency the Governor General, the second by Secretary of Commerce Sawyer of the United States, and the third will bring to Canada an outstanding European figure.

"The great importance of the Canadian Trade Fair", Mr. Howe pointed out, "lies in its actual and potential contribution to a greater and better distributed flow of world trade. It is a project which, on that ground, merits the best possible support in business circles both in Canada and abroad. M. Monnet, as Commissioner of the National Economic Council of France, holds a key position in the very centre of European effort to place world trade again on a vigorous self-sustaining basis."

Born in Cognac, France, Jean Monnet achieved distinction during two world wars as a co-ordinator of allied war efforts in Paris, London and Washington. He was Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Nations, 1919-23, playing an important part in the financial stabilization of Austria, Poland and Rumania, and for a period was economic adviser to the Chinese Government. After the liberation of France in 1945, he drew up a five-year programme for the reconstruction and modernization of French industry, known as the Monnet Plan, and as Commissioner of the Economic Council, he is now responsible for the implementation of this programme.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION: The first meeting of the United States-Canada Regional Group, under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, will be held in Washington January 17, it was announced on January 7 simultaneously in Ottawa and Washington.

The meeting, to be held at the Pentagon, will take up North Atlantic Treaty Organization matters. Canadian members attending the meeting will include the Canadian Chiefs of Staff and their advisers. They will arrive by plane at Washington National Airport at 3 p.m. EST, January 16.

General J. Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, will meet the Canadians at the airport. Members of the Canadian party include: Lieutenant-General C. Foulkes, CB, CBE, DSO, Chief of the General Staff, Air Marshal W.A. Curtis, CB, CBE, DSC, ED, Chief of the Air Staff, Vice-Admiral H.T.W. Grant, CBE, DSO, Chief of the Naval Staff.