

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: Except for Edmonton, where a decline of three-tenths of a point was shown, cost-of-living indexes for seven of the eight regional cities registered increases of from three-tenths of a point for Halifax to 1.2 points for Winnipeg between September 1 and October 1, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

The Edmonton decline reflected mainly seasonal reduction in foods which outweighed increases in clothing prices and rentals. Changes for other cities were due to higher foods coupled with small increases for clothing, home furnishings and services, and rentals.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION: The estimated value of products manufactured in Canada in 1947 reached the record total of \$9,976,497,000, an increase of 24.2 per cent over 1946, and an advance of 10 per cent over the previous high point reached in 1944 when manufacturing was directed fully to war production.

Due to the rise in prices the physical volume of production did not expand to the same extent as the value figures indicate. The index of the physical volume of production on the base 1935-39=100, which stood at 106.3 in 1939 jumped to a high of 187.7 in 1943 and then declined steadily to 150.3 in 1946. It is expected that the index in 1947 will be somewhere around 158. The physical volume of production thus increased by 49 per cent between 1939 and 1947 as compared with an increase of 187 per cent in the gross value of production.

The employees engaged in manufacturing, which in 1947 totalled 1,120,000, were still below the record number of 1,222,882 employed in 1944. Between 1939 and 1947 the increase in employment was approximately 70 per cent. The amount paid out in salaries and wages in 1947 was, however, at an all-time high figure of \$2,069,624,000, showing an increase of 18.9 per cent over 1946, and a rise of 180 per cent over 1939.

The wood and paper products group with an output valued at \$1,953,379,000 ranked first in importance in 1947. Iron and its products came second with \$1,779,719,000, followed by vegetable products with \$1,768,919,000, animal products \$1,267,858,000, textiles \$1,056,869,000, non-ferrous metal products \$1,041,041,000, non-metallic mineral products \$550,847,000, chemicals \$446,015,000, and miscellaneous industries \$111,850,000.

LUMBER PRODUCTION LOWER: Canadian production of sawn lumber moved to a lower level in August, while the cumulative output for the eight months ending August was practically unchanged from a year ago. The month's output amounted to 586,495,000 feet board measure compared with 610,464,000 a year ago, and in the eight-month period, 3,798,162,000 feet compared with 3,779,299,000 a year ago.

50,238 DWELLING UNITS: The number of dwelling units completed in Canada in September was 6,667, bringing the aggregate for the nine months ending September to 50,238, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Starts were made on 10,651 units during the month, and the total number under construction at the end of the month was 63,656.

Since April, starts have exceeded completions every month and the number of units under construction in Canada has increased by more than 21,000 from January 1 to September 30, distributed over all regions. The Prairie Provinces show the greatest increase where the number under construction has more than doubled in the nine months.

It is expected that larger numbers will be completed in the last three months of this year and the total for 1948 will reach 80,000. In 1947 the number completed was 72,300, excluding conversions.

The average length of time required to complete a dwelling unit dropped from 6.2 months in August to 5.4 months for the dwellings completed in September. There has been little change in the completion time in the larger urban centres. However, the low national average reflects the activity in the small towns and rural areas, where there are now less than 3,000 units started before January 1 and not yet completed; the average completion time is about four months.

It is estimated from the types of dwelling units being constructed that 27 per cent of the dwelling units completed in the first nine months of 1948 are for rental purposes and that the remainder will be owner-occupied. It has been estimated that in February this year, 38 per cent of all dwelling units in Canada were for rental purposes.

WHOLESALE SALES AT RECORD: Wholesalers did a record dollar volume of business in September. The advance over the corresponding month last year was nine per cent and was nationwide in scope. The month's gain was greater than that shown for the year to date, sales for the first nine months being up five per cent. Inventories were also higher in September, rising 14 per cent above last year, with increases in all trades but clothing, fruit and vegetables and footwear.

As a result of the rise in September, the general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, reached an all-time high figure of 328.9 compared with 297.2 for August and 301.7 a year ago.

September increases exceeded the cumulative gain for the year to date in all trades except drugs; while in four trades -- automotive equipment, clothing, dry goods and hardware -- dollar sales in the month surpassed all previous records.

The increase of 23 per cent over September last year registered by clothing wholesalers

was the largest of the month, sales of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers following with a gain of 16 per cent. September sales by wholesalers of hardware were 13 per cent above September 1947, while footwear and dry goods wholesalers' sales increased 12 per cent. Grocers' sales were up nine per cent and drugs, seven per cent. Wholesalers of automotive equipment reported an increase of five per cent over the already high volume of 1947.

NAVAL EXERCISES: A United States submarine squadron, comprising eight submarines, is the object of simulated attacks from the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force being carried out November 17 and 18 off the East Coast of Nova Scotia, it was announced November 17 at National Defence Headquarters. The submarines will be returning to their regularly assigned East Coast bases, after participating in U.S. Atlantic Fleet exercises off Newfoundland.

Commodore G.R. Miles, O.B.E., R.C.N., is in command of the R.C.N. Task Group against the submarines. The group of attacking ships includes the aircraft carrier H.M.C.S. "Magnificent", the destroyers "Nootka" and "Haida" and the frigate "Swansea".

Carrying out attack exercises against the submarines from the air are nine Firefly aircraft of the 18th Carrier Air Group of the Royal Canadian Navy Air Section, Dartmouth and three R.C.A.F. Lancaster bombers from 103 Search and Rescue Flight, Greenwood, N.S.

The naval aircraft operate from R.C.N.A.S. while the R.C.A.F. bombers will be controlled by 10 Group R.C.A.F., Halifax.

The joint R.C.N.-R.C.A.F. exercises will provide operational experience in combating submarines.

CANADA SAVINGS BONDS: Bank of Canada officials announced November 17 that total amount of sales of Third Series of Canada Savings Bonds has now passed \$204 million. The total number of applications now stands at 721,000. Payroll sales totalling \$113 million are included in the grand total and a new post-war payroll savings record is now assured. It is expected that when the final reporting is made the payroll savings total will be more than \$116 million; this compares with \$109 million recorded last year and \$113 million in 1946.

SAYS UN IS MAIN HOPE: In his first report to the country following his return from attending the third session of the United Nations Assembly in Paris as Canada's chief delegate, the Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport, on November 17, in Halifax, urged members of the Port of Halifax Club and all Canadians to support the United Nations because it was "our main hope for peace". He stated that while the United Nations "had not banished insecurity and war it offers the world

an organization to mobilize all efforts of goodwill to work for peace and better cooperation between nations."

Mr. Chevrier told Club members that "in spite of the efforts of the western nations to find a means of accommodation with the states of Eastern Europe, the minority in the UN presents a rigid and inflexible position," violently attacking the position of the majority, criticizing its institutions, questioning its motives and holding its leaders to ridicule. "This is scarcely an atmosphere in which the real purpose of the UN can be accomplished," he said, and though that there was no point in expecting the UN to accomplish very much at the present time.

"It is important however", he added, "that in the great debate which is now going on in the world about the way it should be organized, we should state our position clearly and indicate our ideas in precise terms, particularly with those with political ideas such as ours."

Stating that nothing could be more misleading than to think that the unity which is built up among western states in the UN was automatic, as charged by the U.S.S.R. delegates, Mr. Chevrier said: "For us, the merits of the case are of the greatest importance and it is necessary that they should be stated with clarity and conviction. Even then, we are not always sure of our majority, and sometimes, we must modify our policy because it does not carry the full support of our associates. Thus in the formulation of the political principles upon which the western world operates, a genuine democratic process is in being."

"When the tension between East and West has abated," he said, "the United Nations may also provide an instrument for the same kind of democratic process to effect relations between the Soviet world and the rest of us."

POWER PRODUCTION: Power production by central electric stations in Canada was slightly higher in September than a year ago, in spite of decreases in Quebec and Ontario, the two largest producing provinces, and in Manitoba, but was substantially below this year's August total.

Output for the month totalled 3,604,218,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,589,497,000 in September last year and 3,692,713,000 kilowatt hours in the preceding month. Primary power increased in September to 3,478,160,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,188,810,000 a year ago, while secondary power fell off to 126,058,000 from 400,687,000 kilowatt hours. Gross exports to the United States dropped to 123,652,000 compared with 152,864,000 kilowatt hours, with secondary power declining about 23,000,000 kilowatt hours.

Production during September declined in Quebec to 2,044,828,000 kilowatt hours as against 2,071,220,000 in September, 1947, and in Ontario to 900,695,000 compared with 912,536,000. Manitoba's output also fell off to 146,656,000 from 150,884,000 kilowatt hours,