

designed to conserve exchange and, in particular, to save dollars. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade contains a general prohibition of quantitative restrictions but it goes on to recognize the right of countries in balance of payment difficulties to impose such restrictions and to recognize circumstances in which the restrictions may be discriminatory. Countries overseas have exercised these rights to discriminate against dollar imports.

"Some of the important countries overseas are now envisaging a general tightening and redefinition of these balance of payment escape clauses to accompany a major move toward the convertibility of currency. It is to our advantage in Canada to seek to limit the use of quantitative restrictions which have limited our trade and the benefits of past tariff concessions in many countries overseas. We shall seek more satisfactory agreements with regard to the circumstances in which quantitative restrictions may be imposed and the length of time for which they may remain in force.

"While the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is international in its structure, it constitutes a direct expression of Canadian trade policy. Our trade policies in turn are formulated in direct response to our national interests and our national requirements. From this point of view, it is clear that our Government has no real alternative but to participate wholeheartedly in GATT.

"This agreement constitutes the most practical machinery that has yet been developed for the formulation of trade rules and for the negotiation of difficulties when they arise. We are on the threshold of new opportunities to promote world trade and to promote our own trade. We shall certainly take full advantage of any such opportunities which arise, and we shall certainly continue to base our trade policies on a realistic view of our own national interests."

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MOVIE STATISTICS: Paid admissions to regular motion picture theatres in Canada dropped to 241,182,726 last year from 247,732,717 in 1952, but receipts passed the hundred-million-dollar mark for the first time, according to an advance statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of theatres in operation increased to 1,906 from 1,843 and receipts (exclusive of taxes) rose to \$100,889,361 from \$98,851,349. Amusement taxes collected totalled \$12,760,235 as against \$12,308,148. The average admission price (including amusement tax) was 47¢, up from 45¢ in the preceding year.

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General Sir Ouvry L. Roberts, GCB, KBE, DSO, ADC, 56, Quartermaster General of the British Army arrived in Canada on September 30 on a liaison visit to the Canadian Army.

RECORD CONSTRUCTION YEAR: The value of construction to be put in place in Canada this year is estimated at a new peak total of \$4,830,000,000, 5% above the previous high of \$4,595,000,000 reached in 1953, according to the annual report on construction released today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The rise over 1953 - for which the report gives preliminary figures of actual results - is the smallest in the postwar years. New construction was boosted to \$3,866,000,000 from \$3,646,000,000, and alterations and repairs rose to \$964,000,000 from \$949,000,000.

Estimates for 1954 show a continuance of the shift from engineering to building construction which started in 1953. Total building construction for 1954 is placed at \$2,914,000,000, accounting for 60.3% of the estimated construction total as compared with an actual \$2,732,000,000 or 59.5% in 1953. Total engineering is estimated at \$1,916,000,000 (39.7% of the total) as compared with \$1,863,000,000 (40.5%).

INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING

The largest single increase (25.6%) in the building construction category is expected to be recorded by institutional building which is estimated at \$422,000,000 for 1954 as compared with \$336,000,000 in 1953. Hospitals and schools account for \$59,000,000 and \$22,000,000, respectively, of this increase. Residential building is estimated at \$1,347,000,000 (\$1,299,000,000 in 1953), industrial at \$472,000,000 (\$497,000,000); and commercial at \$575,000,000 (\$513,000,000).

In engineering it is anticipated that gas and oil facilities will register the largest increase in 1954 to an estimated total of \$349,000,000 from \$281,000,000, followed by waterworks and sewage systems to \$139,000,000 from \$119,000,000, and marine construction to \$68,000,000 from \$59,000,000. Relatively little change is anticipated in electric power construction at an estimated \$415,000,000 as compared with \$414,000,000. All other principal types of engineering construction are expected to decline.

Regional figures indicate a continuation this year throughout Canada of the increases recorded in earlier years in the value of construction. For Ontario this year's construction value is estimated at \$1,710,601,000 (\$1,640,786,000 in 1953); Quebec, \$1,185,868,000 (\$1,077,965,000); Alberta, \$617,249,000 (\$558,253,000); British Columbia, \$502,629,000 (\$563,819,000); Saskatchewan, \$245,767,000 (\$221,409,000); Manitoba, \$220,647,000 (\$218,307,000); Nova Scotia, \$154,799,000 (\$137,672,000); New Brunswick, \$107,750,000 (\$95,775,000); Newfoundland, \$70,252,000 (\$68,277,000); and Prince Edward Island, \$14,528,000 (\$12,950,000).

Average employment in the construction industry is expected to exceed a half-million in 1954 for the first time.