

GROWTH OF OIL INDUSTRY: About 2,000 permanent new jobs have been created in the petroleum products industry since 1948 through the construction or expansion of about 25 oil refineries, it was announced on January 13 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. M.F. Gregg.

This growth, following on the discovery of the Leduc oil fields in 1947, was reflected in an increase in the employment index for the petroleum products industry which rose from 149.3 in 1949 (1939=100) to 172.5 in 1951, the Minister pointed out.

In 1946, only 9 per cent of the oil used by Canadian refineries was Canadian crude oil. In 1952, with the greatly expanded refinery capacity it was estimated that 37 per cent of crude oil processed is Canadian. Production of crude oil in Canada increased from 12,400,000 barrels in 1948 to 48,125,000 barrels in 1951, and 37,700,000 barrels in the first eight months of 1952. Alberta produced 96 per cent of all Canadian crude oil in 1951.

Due to the increasing availability of Canadian crude oil, there has been a regional shift in the location of refinery expansion during the last five years. Earlier expansion in the Quebec region was based on imported oil, while later expansion took place in the Prairie provinces and was based on Canadian oil.

While investment in the petroleum industry has quadrupled from \$296,000,000 in 1945 to \$1,225,000,000 in 1951, employment has not increased in proportion. Even though capital investment in the industry was at a high level, employment was only about 25,000 workers.

A large volume of investment is expected again in 1953 and a number of important projects are already underway or at the planning stage.

* * * *

FARM CASH INCOME: Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products in 1952 amounted to an estimated \$2,787,834,000, only slightly below the all-time high of \$2,825,511,000 received in 1951, according to advance preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In addition, supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act amounted to \$5,100,000 as compared with \$13,800,000 in 1951.

Cash receipts from the sale of grains were substantially higher than a year ago as a result of the adverse weather conditions in the Prairie Provinces which caused a heavy carry-over of the 1951 crop for harvest and delivery in the spring of 1952. More than offsetting these increases were smaller grain participation and adjustment payments and a substantial decline in the returns from the sale of live stock and eggs.

DEFENCE SCIENCE CONFERENCE: Led by Dr. O.M. Solandt, Chairman of the Defence Research Board, a group of senior DRB scientists and military representatives will participate in the fourth meeting of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Defence Science to be held at New Delhi, India, March 2 to 14, it was announced simultaneously in Ottawa and London on January 13.

The committee's main objective is to promote scientific research relative to defence in all fields by closer collaboration within the Commonwealth. The Indian conference provides an opportunity for senior Commonwealth scientists and Service officers to exchange views on important current defence matters.

The Canadian delegation will include Major General S.F. Clark, Canadian Army Quartermaster General who has attended the three previous committee meetings held in the U.K.; Dr. N.W. Morton, who supervises DRB's activities in the fields of operational, medical and human resources research and environmental protection and who advised the Indian Government in psychology in 1947, and Dr. J.E. Keyston, Chief Superintendent of the Board's Naval Research Establishment at Halifax, who will represent both DRB and RCN interests. Dr. Keyston advised the Indian Government on the setting up of a scientific naval research organization in 1949.

The U.K. delegation will be led by Sir John Cockcroft, Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, and will include eminent British scientists and Service officers. Other Commonwealth countries represented besides Canada will be Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan.

The conference will be opened by the Indian Minister of Defence and during following sessions, the chair will be taken by delegates from the various Commonwealth countries. An opportunity to visit Indian research establishments will be extended the delegates.

* * * *

HANOVER FIELD EXERCISE: High velocity guns of three infantry battalions of the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade echoed over German field-firing ranges at Hohne on January 12 as anti-tank components of the Canadian Brigade started a 12-day shoot, the first field training exercise of 1953.

Seventeen-pounder guns of support companies from the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, the Carleton and York Regiment and the North Nova Scotia Highlanders have been moved 45 miles north from the Brigade's base at Hanover to the Hohne ranges for classification and tactical firing tests.

About 1,000 rounds of high explosive and armour-piercing shells were fired in five days. The rest of the 12-day manoeuvre is being spent on field gun drills and tactical handling.