

new fertilizer plant at Medicine Hat, Alberta. The availability of natural gas as a fuel was an important factor in the recent establishment of the first pulp mill in the power-short Prairie Provinces--at Hinton, Alberta, north-west of Edmonton. And of course the transportation of iron ore from Quebec-Labrador to the heart of the continent was a key consideration in the decision to build the St. Lawrence Seaway.

No less important is the impact of the big resource projects on a host of supplying industries. For instance, the amount of cement required by the Seaway alone staggers the imagination. Though many of the more specialized types of machinery and equipment have been imported, heavy industries in eastern Canada have been turning out such things as generators for power plants, digesters for pulp mills, grinding rods and balls for mine concentrators and tanks for uranium leaching mills. Particularly striking is the construction of half-a-dozen new pipe mills in Ontario and the west in response to the soaring requirements of the oil and gas industry.

Finally, the success of large-scale projects has encouraged Canadians to think in bigger terms. When Knob Lake, Kitimat and the Interprovincial pipeline were embarked upon, they were regarded as remarkable, singular feats. They turned out, in fact, to be simply the first in a succession of huge projects, including the two largest single undertakings in Canada since the building of the trans-continental railway system: the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Trans-Canada gas pipeline.

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ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Canadian Government plans to contribute \$290,000, to be paid in 1959, to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the purpose of closing the Refugee Camps in Europe under his mandate.

At the end of the Second World War the number of homeless refugees in Europe was close to 2.2 million people, but this number has now been reduced to less than 200,000. Canada contributed nearly \$19 million to the former International Refugee Organization, which was disbanded in 1952, and has continued to make contributions to the programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who is responsible to the General Assembly of the United Nations for assistance to refugees.

The High Commissioner hopes that if governments meet his request for increased contributions in the near future, the European Refugee Camps can be closed by the end of 1960, thus terminating one of the most urgent and costly aspects of his mandate.

At the same time, it was announced that the Government had decided to seek Parliamentary approval for a contribution of \$60,000 to the

Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) for the purpose of moving European Refugees out of China.

Most of these refugees are White Russians who left their country after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. Approximately half of them have been moved by ICEM from Hong Kong to overseas destinations, but it is estimated that nearly 10,000 still remain in China. Of those, 6,000 have already been accepted for permanent settlement in certain countries, chiefly in Australia and Brazil. However, as these Refugees have little or no funds of their own, international assistance is necessary if they are to be able to move from the mainland of China to permanent homes overseas.

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IMPORTS PRICE DROP

Canada's commodity imports in May were valued at \$485,100,000, a decline of 12.5 per cent from the all-time high for any month of \$554,100,000 in May last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its regular monthly summary. Total for the January-May period was \$2,123,700,000, down 13.6 per cent from last year's five-month peak of \$2,450,600,000.

Among major commodities there were lower values in May and the five months for industrial machinery, crude petroleum, automobiles and parts, farm implements and machinery, pipes, tubes and fittings, rolling-mill products, cotton and wool products, rubber products and coal, but increased values for fruits and aircraft and parts. Values were lower in the month but higher in the cumulative period for vegetables, sugar and products and paper.

Imports from the United States dropped to \$330,949,000 in May from \$394,596,000 a year earlier and to \$1,504,156,000 in the January-May period from \$1,816,646,000. Smaller values were posted for all nine main commodity groups both in May and the five-month period, chief declines being in the iron and products group.

Contrary to the general trend, imports from the United Kingdom rose in May to \$55,397,000 from \$50,716,000 a year earlier and to \$222,696,000 in the five-month period from \$216,775,000. Trends were mixed among the major commodity groups in both periods, with substantial increases in iron and steel products, agricultural and vegetable products and miscellaneous commodities more than offsetting a sharp decline in textile imports.

Purchases from the rest of the Commonwealth declined to \$24,252,000 in May from \$29,835,000 a year earlier and to \$78,249,000 in the January-May period from \$91,479,000. There were smaller imports in both periods from the West Indies Federation, Malaya and Singapore and New Zealand, but larger purchases from Australia. Imports were higher in the month but lower in the cumulative period from Ceylon and India.

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