

NEW MOTOR SALES

Sales of new motor vehicles increased 20.2 per cent in April to 62,326 units from 51,831 a year earlier, passenger cars rising 25.2 per cent to 55,371 units from 44,210 and commercial vehicles falling 8.7 per cent to 6,955 units from 7,621. The retail value of total sales climbed 19.7 per cent to \$185,883,000 from \$155,335,000, the total for passenger cars increasing 22.7 per cent to \$158,950,000 from \$129,574,000 and commercial vehicles 4.5 per cent to \$26,933,000 from \$25,761,000.

January-April sales of new motor vehicles were up 21.2 per cent from a year ago at 201,294 units compared to 166,050, with passenger cars advancing 24.6 per cent to 175,575 units from 140,908 and commercial vehicles 2.3 per cent to 25,719 units from 25,142. The four-month retail value was up 21.1 per cent to \$609,814,000 from \$503,653,000, the total for passenger cars increasing 24.8 per cent to \$517,166,000 from \$414,330,000 and commercial vehicles 3.7 per cent to \$92,648,000 from \$89,323,000.

April sales of vehicles manufactured in Canada and the United States climbed 28.2 per cent to 51,710 units from 40,325 a year earlier, and the value rose 24.3 per cent to \$163,692,000 from \$131,680,000. Passenger-car sales advanced 35.6 per cent in volume to 45,216 units from 33,355 and 28.3 per cent in value to \$137,845,000 from \$107,418,000.

Sales of overseas-manufactured vehicles declined 7.7 per cent in the month to 10,616 units from 11,506 a year earlier, and the retail value fell 6.2 per cent to \$22,191,000 from \$23,655,000. Passenger-car sales were down 6.4 per cent in volume to 10,155 units from 10,855 and 4.7 per cent in value to \$21,105,000 from \$22,156,000.

MESSAGE FROM LAOS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, recently released the text of a message received from Prince Souvanna Phouma, who is to head the new Laotian Government of national union. This communication is in reply to a congratulatory message sent by Mr. Green on June 14, after learning that agreement had been reached in principle on the formation of a coalition government in Laos.

Prince Souvanna Phouma's message is as follows: "I am deeply moved by the message of congratulations which Your Excellency has been kind enough to send me on the occasion of the formation of the government of national union, and I thank you very much for it. If agreement has been reached on June 12, 1962, it is in large measure thanks to the efforts of your representative on the International Supervisory Commission in Laos and to those of your Government. I am sure I can count on the help of your Government in the carrying out of the future Geneva accords which should soon be endorsed by the unified delegation from Laos. Highest consideration. Prince Souvanna Phouma, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Laos."

APRIL BORDER CROSSINGS

Vehicles entering Canada from the United States in April numbered 1,414,200, an increase of 4.0 per cent from last year's corresponding total of 1,359,300. This brought the number in the January-April period to 4,468,900 versus 4,411,700, a year ago, a rise of 1.3 per cent.

Vehicles of foreign registry entering Canada from the United States increased 5.2 per cent in April to 644,600 from 612,806 a year earlier and 1.4 per cent in the January-April period to 1,965,700 from 1,939,400 a year ago. Vehicles of Canadian registry returning from the United States rose 3.1 per cent in the month to 769,600 from 746,500 and 1.2 per cent in the four months to 2,503,200 from 2,472,300.

ENTRY OF PERSONS

The number of persons entering Canada from the United States in April by rail, bus, boat and plane increased 7.8 per cent to 198,800 from 184,400 in the same month last year. This brought the January-April total to 632,300 compared to 610,800 in the same four months of 1961, an advance of 3.5 per cent.

The number of foreign travellers entering Canada from the United States by long-distance common carrier was up by 9.5 per cent in April to 74,900 from 68,300 a year earlier and by 0.8 per cent in the January-April period to 240,800 from 239,000. The number of Canadians returning by these means of transportation increased 6.7 per cent in the month to 123,900 from 116,100 and 5.3 per cent in the four-month period to 391,500 from 371,800.

FOREST FIRES

National forest-fire statistics to the end of May showed reductions from the corresponding period last year, according to the federal Department of Forestry.

A total of 89,781 acres of forest was destroyed or damaged by 1,557 fires during April and May. For the corresponding months last year, 1,893 fires burned or damaged 385,665 acres.

The average size of the fires has been 57 acres so far this year, compared with 204 acres for April and May 1961.

Forestry officials are hoping that forest-fire destruction will remain well below the 1961 record of some 9,000,000 acres.

CARGO-HANDLING EXPOSITION

The key to effective integrated transportation, port-cargo handling, will be explored at a two-day exposition sponsored by the National Harbours Board to be held early this autumn in Montreal. The exposition will feature the examination of advanced handling techniques in operation at the port. The programme encompasses all phases of bulk and general cargo handling from dockside to truck and rail. Modern mechanical equipment such as fork-lift trucks, mobile cranes and loading and unloading machinery