

incorporated manufacturing establishments, and professional practitioners showed an increase of about 6% over 1952.

The gross national product includes, in addition to the factor costs which comprise the national income, indirect taxes less subsidies and depreciation allowances and similar business costs. Indirect taxes less subsidies increased by approximately 7% over 1952. All of this gain is attributable to indirect taxes; subsidies remained virtually unchanged. The largest advances were recorded in customs import duties, associated with the large increase in the level of imports, and in excise taxes, reflecting mainly higher levels of consumer expenditures. At the provincial level there was a substantial increase in gasoline taxes, while at the municipal level a large gain occurred in real and personal property taxes. Depreciation allowances and similar business costs increased by 9% in 1953 to reach a total of \$2,266 million.

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ANTI-SUBMARINE MORTARS: Another step in the development of Canadian self-sufficiency in the production of weapons and materials for the armed forces has been achieved with the delivery to the Royal Canadian Navy of the first anti-submarine mortars to be manufactured in this country, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, announced on February 17.

The mortars, known as "Squid", were produced in the Vancouver plant of the Dominion Bridge Company and are the first of the order to be completed.

Of British design, the Squid is being produced in Canada under licence from the British Admiralty. Certain alterations have been made to facilitate production in this country.

The weapons will be fitted in frigates and other ships being modernized and converted for service as anti-submarine escorts and will also be used in training establishments on shore.

The mortars usually are fitted in pairs and are linked to an asdic set through an electronic fire control system. The weapon is three-barrelled and can fire a pattern of large high-explosive projectiles ahead of the ship with great accuracy. The projectiles can be set to explode at a pre-determined depth. The chances of "killing" a submarine with the Squid are much greater than with earlier weapons such as the depth charge or hedgehog.

The cost of the complete installation in a ship is approximately \$100,000.

The production of Squid in Canada not only assures the RCN of a source of supply in the event of an emergency but also opens up the possibility of Canada being able to furnish other NATO countries with the weapon should the necessity arise, Mr. Claxton said.

RECORD SALES IN 1953: Sales of Canada's retail merchants topped all previous annual records in 1953, aggregating \$12,092,174,000, according to preliminary estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was 4.5% above 1952's \$11,575,478,000. The 1953 gain was smaller than in 1952 when an increase of 8.6% was shown as compared with 1951.

There were increased sales in all months of 1953 over 1952 except in November when a small decrease of 0.5% occurred. Gains in monthly sales during the year ranged from a high of 12.3% in January to a low of 1.2% in December.

Both independent and chain establishments increased their dollar sales in 1953 as compared with 1952. Sales of independent retail outlets climbed 3.9% to \$10,029,493,000 from \$9,647,728,000 in 1952; and chain store sales rose 6.9% to \$2,062,681,000 from \$1,929,750,000.

All provinces shared in the increased sales in 1953 as compared with 1952, Saskatchewan leading in rate of gain with a rise of 7.2%, followed by Ontario with an advance of 5.2%, Quebec and Manitoba 4.6% each, Alberta 3%, British Columbia 2.5%, and the Atlantic Provinces 2.4%.

There were sales gains in 1953 for all trades except general stores, men's clothing stores, restaurants, and fuel dealers.

Motor vehicle dealers' sales again led all others in dollar size in 1953, with grocery and combination stores a close second. Motor vehicle dealers' sales aggregated \$2,274,584,000 (\$2,119,195,000 in 1952); grocery and combination stores, \$2,126,536,000 (\$2,039,454,000); department stores, \$1,028,621,000 (\$996,028,000); garages and filling stations, \$542,413,000 (\$503,711,000); general stores, \$532,642,000 (\$546,342,000); restaurants, \$446,624,000 (\$457,073,000); and lumber and building materials, \$422,804,000 (\$380,073,000).

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FOR KOREAN ORPHANS: Nickels and dimes contributed by a group of Canadian Sunday School children recently brought a wealth of gladness to the hearts of 19 Korean war orphans.

The senior Protestant chaplain of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade, Major John M. Anderson, MC and Bar, received a twenty dollar money order from the Cardston, Alberta, United Church Sunday School. "The money," wrote Mrs. W.L. Beales, "was collected through a white gift service held by the children at Christmas time," and the padre was requested to "use it as he saw fit".

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An all-time peak of 461,887 new motor vehicles were sold last year, 15% more than in 1952, 7.5% more than in 1950, the previous high year, and more than four times as many as in 1939.