

DEFENCE MINISTER VISITS WASHINGTON

Mr. Douglas S. Harkness, Minister of National Defence, left by RCAF aircraft for Washington on November 20, for talks next day with American Secretary of Defence Thomas S. Gates, Jr., and officials of the United States Department of Defence and the Canadian Joint Staff. He was accompanied by Air Marshal Frank R. Miller, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Harkness was back in Ottawa on the evening of November 21.

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EXPORT TRADE CONFERENCE

Mr. George Hees, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced recently that Canadian businessmen were showing an enthusiastic response to the invitation he extended several weeks ago to meet and discuss trade prospects and problems with the 111 Canadian trade commissioners who will be in Ottawa from December 5 to 9. Since the Export Trade Promotion Conference was announced, 252 Canadian businessmen have requested interviews; to date, 3,000 have been scheduled.

"It is apparent that businessmen welcome this opportunity to meet and discuss their company's export business with all of the trade commissioners from the various countries in which they are interested", Mr. Hees said. "Most of the firms are requesting appointments with at least 12 different trade commissioners. While the majority of the requests are from firms which are presently engaged in export, I am pleased to see that many are from firms with no previous experience. I can assure potential exporters that we will do everything we can to provide assistance and guidance".

ARRANGING INTERVIEWS

The Minister pointed out that all head office members of the Department would be available for discussion during the week of the Export Trade Promotion Conference. This would permit firms and individuals interested in export to meet not only the trade commissioners, but also to discuss trade possibilities with head-office officials. He mentioned that, as the interviews with the trade commissioners would take place in No. 1 Temporary Building on Wellington Street, directly across the street from the Trade and Commerce Building, there would be no problem arranging interviews with both visiting trade commissioners and the home-based officials of the Department.

Mr. Hees paid tribute to the interest and co-operation shown by the business and trade associations in bringing the Export Trade Promotion Conference to the attention of their members. "Through the co-operation of 110 associations, we have been able to contact most of the firms which might be expected to have an interest in exports", he said. "Al-

ready more than 31,000 'request-for-interview' forms have been distributed through the various associations. I have been greatly encouraged by the support demonstrated by the associations, large and small, many of whom have approached the Department on their own initiative".

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INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Canada's seasonally adjusted index of industrial production (1949=100) rose in September for the second consecutive month, advancing by 1.1 per cent. An increase of 1.6 per cent in manufacturing was partly offset by marginal declines in mining (0.4 per cent) and utilities (0.1 per cent). The latest increase in the index has brought it to a point about 3.3 per cent below the January peak.

Non-durable manufacturing registered a 0.7 per cent increase in September. All non-durable major groups showed gains, with the exception of rubber products, which declined by 2 per cent, and foods and beverages, which declined by 1 per cent. Leather products and printing, publishing and allied industries increased by 7 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

Tobacco products, paper products, textiles, clothing, petroleum products and chemicals and allied industries all registered production advances of about 1 per cent.

MANUFACTURE OF DURABLES

Durable manufacturing output continued the advance begun in August by increasing a further 2.7 per cent. The gain primarily reflected a 13 per cent advance in transportation equipment, in turn caused by a substantial increase in the output of motor vehicles. Iron and steel advanced 2 per cent, reflecting increased output of both primary iron and steel and iron castings. Non-ferrous metal products and electrical apparatus and supplies each rose 1 per cent, while both wood products and non-metallic mineral products declined 1 per cent.

Declines in iron ore, copper and lead, only partially offset by production gains in gold and zinc, resulted in a 4 per cent drop in total metal mining. Non-metal mining (including asbestos) registered a 4 per cent gain. Despite declines in both coal and natural gas production, total fuel production rose 4 per cent, on account of a substantial advance in the output of crude petroleum.

In a comparison of the third quarter of 1960 with the second quarter, on a seasonally-adjusted basis, the following percentage changes are indicated: industrial production (down 0.8 per cent), mining (down 1.8 per cent), manufacturing (down 1.3 per cent), non-durables (down 0.5 per cent), durables (down 2.3 per cent), and electric power and gas utilities (up 4.8 per cent).

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