

domestic water equipment, industrial cooling systems, automobile motors, and all kinds of tools and utensils. The other, the high-temperature oxidation, is a big problem in industry, affecting engines, machinery, and many kinds of plant equipment. The estimated loss due to corrosion in Canada is upwards of \$400 million a year. Of course anti-corrosion is an industry in itself, but the benefits to be gained by reducing corrosion are very great, and various technical societies, national and international, are giving this objective a prominent place in their research and education."

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### NEW QUEBEC PREMIER

On January 7, Antonio Barrette, Quebec's Labour Minister, was chosen to succeed Premier Paul Sauvé, who died suddenly on January 2, four months after Premier Maurice Duplessis. Mr. Barrette will retain his Labour portfolio for the time being.

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### LIVING COSTS DECLINE

Canada's consumer price index declined 0.3 per cent from 128.3 to 127.9 between November and December 1959, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. A year ago the index stood at 126.2. Over the year 1959 the index averaged 126.5, or 1.1 per cent above the 1958 level of 125.1. The current month's movement was due entirely to a drop of 1.1 per cent in foods as the other four group indexes recorded little or no change. The clothing and "other" commodities and services indexes were both unchanged, while the shelter and household operation indexes were up fractionally.

The food index moved from 123.8 to 122.4 to stand almost at the December 1958 level of 122.2. The sharpest drop in egg prices in some years accounted for most of this change as grade "A" large eggs decreased 14.4¢ to 48.3¢ a dozen, the lowest since March 1950 and the lowest December price since 1944. Imported fruits, orange juice, pork and chicken were also lower. Fresh vegetables, particularly tomatoes and cabbage, were higher.

The shelter index increased 0.1 per cent from 142.6 to 142.7 as rents were unchanged and home-ownership rose slightly. The clothing index was unchanged at 111.4 as price in-

creases for footwear and a scatter of children's items were balanced by sale prices for women's winter coats. The household operation index rose 0.2 per cent from 123.5 to 123.7. Slightly higher prices were reported for coal, utensils and equipment, household supplies, laundry, dry cleaning, and shoe repairs. The "other" commodities and services index, unchanged at 136.9, showed little or no price movement on most items.

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### HYDRO-ELECTRIC EXPANSION

Another record-breaking year for Canada's hydro-electric power industry was reported by Resources Minister Alvin Hamilton in a review of power development progress in 1959.

During the year 2,508,000 horse-power of new generating capacity was added, bringing the total installed capacity of hydro-electric power plants in Canada to 24,884,848 h.p.

More new generating capacity was added during 1959 than in any other year. The 1959 total exceeds the previous record of 2,485,040 horsepower of new capacity in 1958.

Quebec led the other Provinces in the amount of new hydro-electric capacity installed during 1959. The 1,457,800 h.p. of new capacity that went into operation in Quebec during the year provided more than half of the record total for the whole of Canada. Other power developments in Quebec are expected to provide an additional 1,100,000 h.p. in 1960.

Major hydro installations of the year were: the completion of nine remaining units of the Robert H. Saunders - St. Lawrence Generating Station of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission providing a total of 675,000 h.p.; the 600,000 h.p. generating station of the Aluminum Company of Canada at Chute des Passes, Quebec; and the three units at the Bersimis II station of the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission which provide 513,000 h.p.

Mr. Hamilton's review noted "significant increases" in thermal-electric installations, particularly in Ontario which installed 268,000 h.p. of new thermal-electric capacity in 1959. A trend towards thermal development was evident in Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, four Provinces which already receive most of their electric power from thermal plants and in British Columbia which installed its first major thermal plant in 1958.

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