

against 56,456 at the beginning of the year. In May, 7,374 units were completed in Canada compared with 6,284 in the corresponding month last year. A breakdown of the types of dwellings completed shows that approximately 29 per cent are for rental purposes, the remainder being for owner-occupancy. Starts were made in May on 12,809 units compared with 11,407 a year earlier.

Ontario had the largest number under construction at the end of the month at 20,692, followed by Quebec with 13,557, British Columbia 7,006, Alberta 4,467, Manitoba 2,260, Nova Scotia 2,254, Saskatchewan 1,977, New Brunswick 1,185, and Prince Edward Island 135.

Among the larger metropolitan areas there were 8,482 under construction in Montreal, 4,802 in Toronto, 4,151 in Vancouver, 1,663 in Winnipeg, 1,130 in Hamilton, 866 in London, 843 in Victoria, 490 in Windsor, 435 in Quebec, 431 in Ottawa, 324 in Halifax, and 275 in Saint John.

**DEPARTMENT STORE SALES:** Department store sales rose four per cent in July over the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. All regions of the country participated in the rise except Quebec where there was a decline of two per cent. The gain in Alberta was 10 per cent, Saskatchewan nine, Manitoba eight, British Columbia seven, the Maritimes four, and Ontario one per cent.

Preliminary compilations for the week ending August 6 show a decline in sales of two per cent for Canada as a whole, declines in eastern Canada more than counterbalancing advances in western sections.

**MERCK FELLOWSHIPS:** Two Merck postdoctoral fellowships in the natural sciences have been awarded for the year 1949-50, it has been announced by the National Research Council at Ottawa. Grants have been made to Dr. D.A.I. Goring, of McGill University's Department of Physical Chemistry, who will study colloid science under Professor F.J.W. Roughton, F.R.S. at Cambridge University, England; and to Dr. M.J. Miller of the Institute of Parasitology at Macdonald College, who will pursue his studies in medical parasitology and clinical tropical medicine under the direction of the School of Tropical Medicine at the University of Calcutta, India.

**WHEAT STOCKS:** Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on July 31 amounted to 54,556,000 bushels compared with 53,098,000 on July 24, and 34,799,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

**HALF-YEAR'S STORE SALES:** With dollar sales in June repeating the gains of earlier months over last year, total department store sales in Canada during the first half of this year were 10 per cent higher than last year. All provinces shared in the half-year gain, largest increases being in the Maritime and Prairie Provinces, and sales were higher in all departments except food and kindred products.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, January-June sales aggregated \$382,744,000 as compared with \$348,735,000 for the first six months of 1948. June sales amounted to \$67,230,000 as compared with \$63,254,000 for June last year, a lower-than-average increase of six per cent.

By regions, gains in the half-year ranged from nearly 19 per cent for Alberta to six per cent for Quebec. The Maritime Provinces were second in degree of increase with over 14 per cent; followed by Saskatchewan, just under 14 per cent; Manitoba, 12 per cent; British Columbia, nine per cent; and Ontario, nearly eight per cent.

**LONG-TIME CROP YIELDS:** Average annual yield per acre of all wheat in Canada during the 41 years from 1908 to 1948 inclusive was 16 bushels, fall wheat averaging 25 bushels and spring wheat 16 bushels, according to a summary of long-time average yields of field crops issued by the Bureau of Statistics. British Columbia had the highest average yield of spring wheat at 25 bushels, followed by Ontario with 19 bushels, Alberta and the three Maritime Provinces with 18 bushels each, Manitoba and Quebec with 17, and Saskatchewan with 15 bushels. Ontario's fall wheat crops have averaged 25 bushels per acre.

**MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES:** Number of manufacturing establishments in Canada increased by 1,465 from 1946 to 1947, rising from 31,249 to 32,714, according to a summary of principal statistics of Canadian manufacturing production during 1947 issued by the Bureau of Statistics. Detailed information on the country's manufacturing industries will be issued later.

Average number of persons employed in Canada's manufacturing industries during 1947 rose to 1,131,750 from 1,058,156 the previous year, but the year's gains still left the total below the totals for the war years 1942, 1943 and 1944. Salaries and wages paid in 1947 increased to \$2,085,926,000 from \$1,740,687,000 to exceed the previous peak of \$2,029,621,000 in 1944. Cost of materials advanced to \$5,534,280,000 as compared with \$4,358,235,000 in 1946, and the gross value of products to \$10,081,027,000 from \$8,035,692,000, both figures being new peaks.

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS:** The Security Council on August 11 adopted a joint resolution submitted by Canada and France, which, among other things:

Calls the recently signed armistice agreements "an important step towards the establishment of permanent peace in Palestine" and declares that the agreements supersede the Security Council's truce;

Reaffirms, pending the final peace settlement, the Council's cease-fire order of July 15, 1948;

Expresses hope that the parties will "at an early date achieve agreement on the final settlement of all questions outstanding between them" through negotiations either directly or with the Palestine Conciliation Commission;

Relieves the Acting Mediator of any further responsibility under Security Council resolution; and

Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the continued service of such of the personnel of the present Truce Supervision Organization as might be required to observe the cease-fire and to assist in the implementation of the armistice agreements.

The vote on the resolution was nine in favor to none against, with two abstentions (Ukraine, USSR), the U.N. Press Bureau reported.

Earlier, a series of Soviet amendments, revised August 11, were rejected.

One, asking the parties to negotiate directly, was defeated by a vote of two in favor (Ukraine, USSR), two against (United Kingdom, USSR) and seven abstentions.

A second, asking for the recall of the United Nations observers and the disbandment of the staff of the United Nations truce observation organization, was defeated by the same vote.

A third Soviet amendment, to delete the last three paragraphs of the Canadian French proposal, which refer to the United Nations observers, was defeated by a vote of two in favor (Ukraine, USSR), six against (Canada, Cuba, France, Norway, United Kingdom, United States) and three abstentions (Argentina, China, Egypt).

A joint resolution submitted by Canada and Norway, paying tribute to the Acting Mediator on Palestine, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche; the late Mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, and their staffs, was approved unanimously by the Council, without a vote.

**R.C.A.F. APPOINTMENT:** Air Force Headquarters has announced the appointment of Group Captain K.L.B. Hodson, OBE, DFC, of London, Ont., as a Director in the Air Plans Division of Air Force Headquarters, replacing Group Captain G.P. Lunlop, AFC, of Ottawa, who takes command of RCAF station Trenton, Ont.

**DEEP RIVER HOUSING:** Tenders have been invited by the National Research Council for the construction of ten additional houses at Deep River to provide further needed accommodation for the families of scientists working at the Atomic Energy Project. The village now has approximately 400 family dwellings, accommodation for about 400 single persons in the staff hotel, and all necessary auxiliary services including a shopping centre, recreational facilities and maintenance and municipality service units, and a well-equipped hospital.

The new houses will be of square plan, two storeys in height, and will each have seven rooms and bath. Frame construction and asbestos shingle siding will be used. Last year 34 houses were completed and the construction of 50 more was undertaken. Additional construction work now in progress in the village includes the placing of foundations under some 25 wartime houses. Two rooms have been added to the public school and it is expected further additions will soon be required and also that a high school will have to be built in the near future.

The population of the village is about 1800 of which approximately 550 are children.

**ARCTIC CRUISE:** The Royal Canadian Navy frigate HMCS "Swansea" will sail from Halifax August 24 on a four-week, 4,410-mile cruise to ports on the east coast of Baffin Island, it has been announced at Naval Headquarters. HMCS "Swansea" is commanded by Lieut. John P.T. Dawson, RCN, 29, of Westmount, P.Q., and Halifax.

The "Swansea's" most distant port of call will be River Clyde, a trading post and Department of Transport weather station approximately 1,800 miles north of Halifax, 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle and most northerly point ever to be visited by a vessel of the R.C.N.

Primary purpose of the cruise will be to familiarize officers and men with operating conditions in the sub-Arctic. In addition, hydrographic observations will be made and scientific data collected.

On leaving Halifax the "Swansea" will proceed to Frobisher Bay, Baffin Island, by way of the Straits of Belle Isle. From there she will sail 460 miles northward to Padloping Island, then on to River Clyde. On the return journey the frigate will rendezvous at Hebron, Labrador, with the naval auxiliary tanker "Dundalk" and will re-fuel from the latter.

A northern cruise has become an annual, late-summer undertaking by the R.C.N. Last September the carrier "Magnificent" and destroyers "Nootka" and "Haida" sailed in company to Wakeham Bay, on Hudson Strait, and from there the "Nootka" and "Haida" went on to Churchill, Manitoba, and Coral Harbour, on Southampton Island, at the northern extremity of Hudson Bay.