

ALONG THE ABITIBI

Ontario's famous Abitibi River is in the news again. A few months ago, the time-table of the Ontario Northland Railway was revised to incorporate the name of another station on its Cochrane-Mooseonee line.

This new stop, 93 miles north of Cochrane, bears the same designation as Ontario Hydro's nearby Otter Rapids project, where a construction and engineering force of some 600 men is advancing rapidly with the job of building a 350-foot-long powerhouse and the 1,900-foot main dam structure.

Destined for initial service in 1961 this remote development, with three units in operation, will produce another 131,000 kilowatts of electricity for the power-hungry industries, farms and homes of Northeastern and Southern Ontario.

Provision has been made in the design for five additional units to give the station a total installed capacity of 360,000 kw. These units will be added when a decision is reached to operate Otter Rapids as a peaking plant.

A quarter of a million cubic yards of concrete will be used in constructing the three-unit powerhouse, the 310-foot spillway section, and the bulkhead sections of the main structure, 500 feet long, which will span the Abitibi. In addition, 200,000 cubic yards of earth and granular material will be compacted to form wing walls on either side of the main dam.

This sturdy barrier will raise the level of the river by 110 feet, the new forebay extending back to the tailrace of Hydro's older Abitibi Canyon Generating Station, some 23 miles upstream. Already Otter Rapids is linked with the latter plant by a 115-kv transmission line, which furnishes power for myriad construction purposes. When the plant goes "on the line," however, this power flow will feed into the expanding Hydro system through a new gathering station at Abitibi Canyon, and thence into a revolutionary, extra-high-voltage transmission network.

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INVESTMENT IN CANADA

Capital expenditures for durable physical assets in Canada increased 421 per cent during the 12-year period from 1946 to 1957, to \$8,717 million from \$1,674 million, according to the report "Private and Public Investment in Canada, 1946-1957", recently released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In constant (1949) dollars, capital outlays advanced 172 per cent in the same period, to \$6,051 million from \$2,223 million. Significant increases occurred in all sectors with major gains in mining, where capital outlays rose to \$606 million (current dollars) in 1957 from \$27 million in 1946, and in utilities, to \$1,479 million from \$251 million.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT UP

Canada's index of industrial employment (1949=100) rose about 1 per cent during July and August this year to 124.2 from 123.1. Last year's August index stood at 121.8. Weekly wages and salaries averaged 30¢ lower at \$73.46 versus \$73.76 in July, but were up \$2.79 from a year ago. The month's composite payroll index reached 213.3, up 0.5 per cent from the preceding month's figure of 212.3 and 6.1 per cent from last year's corresponding index of 201.1.

Employment in iron and steel products continued to rise during July and August and more-than-seasonal increases were reported for trade. Indexes for durable goods manufacturing and forestry continued to reflect industrial disputes in British Columbia's lumber industry and employment dropped sharply in the automobile industry as plants shut down for model changeover.

Industrial employment indexes in August were: forestry (chiefly logging), 76.1 (78.1 in July); mining, 127.2 (127.8); total manufacturing, 113.4 (112.2); durable goods manufacturing, 114.1 (115.0); non-durable goods manufacturing, 112.8 (109.8); construction, 154.1 (150.7); transportation, storage and communication, 119.6 (119.7); public utility operation, 145.2 (145.0); trade, 135.0 (133.8); finance, insurance and real estate, 155.7 (152.8); and service (mainly hotels, restaurants, laundries, dry-cleaning plants, business and recreational services), 124.2 (123.1).

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UNEF TROOPS IN UN-DAY PARADE

On October 24, Canada's newly-arrived fourth contingent of troops to join the United Nations Emergency Force in policing the Gaza Strip paraded with soldiers of the other member nations to celebrate United Nations Day.

The anniversary parade slashed the airstrip at Gaza with a ribbon of sky-blue UN berets, topping half-a-dozen different national uniforms. The marching troops were flanked by white armoured patrol cars, while Canadian Otter reconnaissance planes flew in formation overhead.

The parade of the peace soldiers wound up a week of sports competitions, cultural exchange presentations and social activities.

The salute was taken by Colonel I.J. Rikhye, Indian Army, who is Chief of Staff at Headquarters, UNEF, in the absence of Lt.-Gen. E.L.M. Burns. He reminded the troops that their task was to serve the interests of a community of nations as pioneers in selfless service for the common good and that the success of UNEF was an important factor in the peace of the world.