

ment for women, who make up a high proportion of the work force in trade, was down 3.3 per cent over the month, while employment for men was reduced by 1.4 per cent only.

During January, average weekly wages and salaries rose seasonally past the level of November 1958 after dipping in the latter part of December. The industrial composite figure for January was \$72.29, up 5 per cent from the figure for the last period in December and 1 per cent from the corresponding statistics for November. The index of industrial payrolls for January 1959 was 192.0 as compared with 183.9 for January 1958 and 184.7 for January 1957.

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REACTOR AT MCMASTER

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce has announced that the Atomic Energy Control Board has issued to McMaster University a license for the operation of its one megawatt swimming pool research reactor. The reactor is situated at McMaster University in the west end of the City of Hamilton.

Mr. Churchill advised that a permit for the construction of this reactor was issued by the Board on April 23, 1957. The reactor has now been completed satisfactorily and operating procedures, proposed by the University and revised to accord with recommendations of the Board's Reactor Safety Advisory Committee, have been approved by the Board. For the consideration of operating procedures, the permanent members of the Committee were joined by representatives of the Ontario Departments of Health and Labour and by the Medical Officer of Health of the City of Hamilton. The operating licence has been issued subject to compliance with the approved procedures, and is to be reviewed at or before the end of the first year of operation.

The Minister pointed out that swimming pool reactors have been found to be quite reliable and safe in operation. The Board is satisfied that University authorities are competent to operate a reactor of this type and believe that no accident should result from operation under the approved procedures. The windowless concrete building with walls two feet thick, in which the reactor is housed, will provide good protection for the public in the unlikely event of an accident. The reactor and its operation will be inspected periodically to ensure that the conditions of the license are fulfilled.

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Mr. Churchill referred to the high reputation for research in the field of atomic energy already attained by McMaster, and to the confidence he felt that with this new research facility the University would make a most significant contribution to Canadian progress in atomic energy research and training.

McMaster is not only the first Canadian university to operate a reactor capable of achieving a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction but also one of the few universities in the world with such a facility.

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MAPLE PRODUCTS IN 1958

Farm value of maple products in 1958 declined over 18 per cent to \$8,440,000 from \$10,342,000 in 1957 and 15.5 per cent from the 1951-55 average of \$9,991,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in a special statement. Production of maple products (expressed as syrup) in 1958 fell 21 per cent to 2,485,000 gallons from 3,134,000 in the preceding year, but rose 0.4 per cent from the 1951-55 average of 2,476,000 gallons.

Output of maple syrup last year decreased to 2,403,000 gallons from 3,068,000 a year earlier. Average farm price increased to \$3.36 per gallon from \$3.27, but the gross farm value dropped to \$8,064,000 from \$10,031,000. Maple sugar output advanced to 815,000 pounds from 661,000, but average farm price eased to 46¢ per pound from 47¢. However, gross farm value rose to \$376,000 from \$311,000.

Gross farm value of maple syrup produced in Quebec in 1958 declined to \$6,435,000 from \$8,328,000 in the previous year. Total for Ontario decreased to \$1,529,000 from \$1,574,000, New Brunswick to \$70,000 from \$95,000, and Nova Scotia to \$30,000 from \$34,000. Farm value of maple sugar output increased in Quebec in the year to \$302,000 from \$236,000, in Ontario to \$18,000 from \$7,000, and in Nova Scotia to \$11,000 from \$10,000, but fell in New Brunswick to \$45,000 from \$58,000.

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OPENING OF SEAWAY

The formal opening date for the passage of the first ships through the St. Lawrence Seaway will be Saturday, April 25, it has been announced by Mr. George Hees, the Minister of Transport.