

A small increase in radioactivity was observed in the samples from Vancouver and Calgary collected on November 24 and this persisted in the latter location the next day. Increases were observed in the Edmonton and Regina samples collected on November 25 and 26. The increases were small but definite, and were confirmed by the identification of certain short-lived radioactive components such as Iodine-131, Barium-Lanthanum-140 and Ruthenium-103, which are characteristic of fresh fission products. The highest level was observed in the sample taken on November 25 at Regina, where the radioactivity content rose to 0.6 picocuries/cubic meter from a normal amount of 0.1 picocurie/cubic meter. Levels decreased to normal values after November 26 in all stations. There has been no evidence of increased radioactivity in other locations in Canada.

While there is no way of establishing definitely that this temporary increase in radioactive levels originated from the Chinese test, the dates of the above observations, the trajectory traces of air movements and the finding of fallout in Hong Kong and Japan supports this conclusion.

Mr. Munro emphasized that the radioactivity, being at the minimum detectable level, was of no significance to health.

HIGH FOREST-FIRE LOSSES

Canada lost nearly four million acres of forest to fire in 1971, according to the Canadian Forestry Service.

The total number of fires to the end of October was only 28 fewer than that of the previous year, but the loss exceeded the 1970 total by 1.5 million acres. In the 1971 season, 8,979 fires swept 3,923,000 acres, compared to 9,007 fires affecting 2,399,000 acres in 1970. The ten-year annual average for the whole season was 7,542 fires over 2,444,000 acres.

The October tally was about the same for both years, 179 outbreaks burning 1,000 acres in 1971, while 174 fires hit the same number of acres in 1970. Both years the October count was well below the month's average for the past ten years of 211 fires over 16,000 acres.

TRIBUTE TO CANADIAN CAR PIONEER

(Continued from P. 2)

lages poured off the General Motors assembly lines.

McLaughlin added his characteristic "light" touch to the war effort when he stored his automobile for the duration and went to work each day in a horse and buggy.

Shortly after the war, McLaughlin had the only

severe illness of his life and asked to retire. He had often stated he would retire when he reached 70, but when that date came Canada was at war and he remained active head of the company. General Motors, however, was reluctant to lose him even after the war and persuaded him to stay on as chairman of the board of the Canadian subsidiaries and as a vice-president and director of the U.S. corporation.

PHILANTHROPIST

Philanthropic organizations placed McLaughlin's name near the top of their lists, for good reason. He gave several million dollars to educational and charitable causes and he held positions in the Canadian Red Cross, the Navy League of Canada, the National Boy Scouts Campaign Fund, the Ontario County War Finance Committee and the Oshawa Community Fund. During the war he paid for the production of a movie which illustrated the work of the Red Cross. His contribution to the Greater Oshawa Community Chest was always generous.

His benevolent activities were not however, confined to Oshawa. In 1951, he endowed a foundation with several million dollars to provide adequate financial assistance to graduates of Canadian medical schools. The grants enable the young doctors to study in foreign countries, and to take their wives and families along while so doing.

McLaughlin gave some millions to Queen's University toward the building of McLaughlin Engineering Building, the completion of Wallace Hall, and Adelaide House for women. In recognition of his assistance, Queen's conferred on him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. He also held honorary degrees from the University of Toronto, York University and McMaster University. In recent years he had provided funds for the building of McLaughlin College at York University and for the McLaughlin Planetarium of the Royal Ontario Museum. In autumn 1968, McLaughlin donated \$500,000 to the building fund of the University of Montreal.

Colonel McLaughlin was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in the first honours list in 1967. On the occasion of his hundredth birthday on September 8, 1971, many organizations developed imaginative methods of honouring him. During his hundredth year, there was a wide diversity of tributes ranging from a specially-struck gold medal, presented by the Governor General on behalf of Canada's Boy Scouts, a specially-commissioned bronze sculpture from GM associates, a special parade by the Ontario Regiment of which he was honorary colonel for many years, outdoor church services, a souvenir print of a National Film Board production *The Oshawa Kid* about his life, displays at the Royal Ontario Museum and the McLaughlin Planetarium to parades, floral displays, ceremonies and festivals all in honour of Oshawa's First Citizen.