

SEAWAY CLOSING DATES

The St. Lawrence Seaway canals will be kept open, weather and ice conditions permitting, until November 30 this year, with the Welland Canal open until December 15 and the Sault Ste. Marie Canal open until December 12, the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority has announced.

Mariners are particularly warned that vessel movements through the canals will not be permitted after the dates shown and it will be their responsibility, states the Authority, to schedule their passages to ensure clearing the system well before these dates if they wish to avoid wintering above (upstream of) Montreal.

No vessels will be able to move on the Welland after December 15 as unwatering will take place immediately after that date, due to the heavy schedule of winter work.

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MARITIME MANUFACTURING

Gross value of factory shipments of the manufacturing industries of the Atlantic Provinces rose 4.6 per cent in 1957 to \$881,761,000 from the preceding year's \$845,867,000, increases being posted for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and decreases for New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Number of establishments rose to 3,446 from 3,381 in 1956. Employees dropped to 64,651 from 65,774, while salaries and wages advanced to \$187,183,000 from \$178,708,000 and cost of materials and supplies to \$485,399,000 from \$464,478,000.

Factory shipments in Nova Scotia, the largest manufacturing province of the four, rose to a record \$427,299,000 from the preceding year's \$384,398,000, while the year's total for New Brunswick, next largest, declined slightly to \$311,796,000 from the 1956 peak of \$313,281,000. Total for Newfoundland declined to \$117,714,000 from the record \$123,691,000 in 1956, while the total for Prince Edward Island rose to a new high of \$24,953,000 from \$24,497,000.

Value of production of the six leading manufacturing industries in Nova Scotia in 1957: primary iron and steel, \$55,145,000 (\$51,321,000 in 1956); fish processing, \$43,902,000 (\$40,787,000); shipbuilding, \$22,988,000 (\$20,868,000); pulp and paper, \$21,852,000 (\$22,022,000); sawmills, \$17,579,000 (\$19,319,000); and butter and cheese, \$11,446,000 (\$11,624,000).

Pulp and paper was New Brunswick's leading manufacturing industry with factory shipments valued at \$94,521,000 versus \$101,358,000 in 1957, followed by sawmills at \$20,331,000 (\$22,372,000 in 1956); fish processing \$17,255,000 (\$17,866,000), slaughtering and meat packing \$11,587,000 (\$9,870,000); and butter and cheese, \$11,431,000 (9,625,000).

Pulp and paper was also Newfoundland's top manufacturing industry with shipments valued

in 1957 at \$63,303,000 as compared with \$68,085,000 in 1956, and fish processing next at \$16,409,000 versus \$18,279,000. The two leading manufacturing industries in Prince Edward Island were butter and cheese with shipments valued at \$5,070,000 versus \$4,989,000, and fish processing at \$3,616,000 versus \$4,271,000.

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NEW AID TO TRADE

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has commented on further substantial steps taken by the New Zealand Government towards the elimination of dollar discrimination and the provision for a higher level of total imports from all sources in 1960.

Under the revised import programme which has just been announced and becomes effective on January 1, 1960, Canadian exporters have been placed on the same footing as other outside suppliers for all goods except motor vehicles and lumber. Controls have been removed altogether from a number of industrial raw materials, including sulphur, explosives and lubricating oils. Provision has also been made for an increase in imports in 1960 of more than 100 other items, mostly essential materials required by industry, up to a maximum of 50 per cent above the 1959 level. Among the items in this group of interest to Canada are metals, chemicals, textiles, medicinal preparations, sausage casings and plastic moulding powders. In addition, a token import system has been introduced for some 90 items, mainly consumer goods.

Mr. Churchill recalled that the removal of discrimination against dollar goods was one of the principal objectives agreed upon at the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference, held in Montreal in September 1958. He warmly welcomed the latest move by New Zealand as a further major step towards the attainment of this objective and expressed a hope that it would soon be possible for New Zealand to extend to Canadian motor vehicles and lumber licensing treatment as favourable as that accorded to such goods when imported from non-dollar countries.

Mr. Churchill stated that the relaxation of New Zealand's import controls should substantially increase the opportunities for expanding and diversifying Canadian sales in that market and he strongly urged Canadian exporters to take full advantage of these opportunities.

During 1958, total Canadian exports to New Zealand amounted to \$15 million. The principal commodities exported were canned fish, tobacco, newsprint and other paper, lumber and wood products, tires, primary iron and steel engines, hand tools, motor vehicles, machinery, chemicals, aluminum, copper and asbestos.