

UN PRESIDENT IN OTTAWA

The President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Frederick Boland, made an informal visit to Ottawa from June 11 to 13. Mr. Boland is also the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations.

During his stay, Mr. Boland met with the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons. He addressed the Canadian Club of Ottawa at a luncheon meeting at the Chateau Laurier on June 12, and later the same day was guest of honour at a government dinner at which the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Green, was host. The Irish Ambassador to Canada entertained Mr. Boland at lunch the following day.

NICKEL

Nickel production in Canada rose to a new peak in 1960. Amounting to 213,641 short tons, or 15 per cent more than in 1959, it reached maximum capacity and was one aspect of the mineral industry that showed widespread expansion and development.

World demand for nickel during 1960 was extremely heavy, although a slight decline, which made it possible for producing companies to restock badly depleted inventories, occurred toward the end of the year. In Europe the demand for nickel was very high throughout the year, particularly in the steel industry. In the United States, demand was high immediately after the end of the steel strike but tapered off during the summer because of a decrease in American steel production.

The General Services Administration of the United States Government released 19 million pounds of cathode nickel from stockpile in January to alleviate any shortage. The remaining contracts between The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, and the United States Defense Materials Procurement Agency (DPA) were cancelled, and International Nickel assumed the 1960 deliveries of Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited. In October the DPA inventory was estimated to contain 130 million pounds of nickel.

With the decline in stockpile commitments, more nickel will be available to the open market, and consumption and production figures will be in closer balance. Production from International Nickel's property at Thompson, Manitoba, which begins in 1961 at an annual rate of 37,500 tons of nickel, will make up much of the loss caused to the Free World market by recent events in Cuba.

VISIT BY EEC OFFICIAL

Mr. Jean Rey, a member of the Commission of the European Economic Community, visited Canada from June 13 to 18. Mr. Rey, a former Belgian Minister for Economic Affairs, is the commissioner-in-charge of the foreign relations of the European Economic Community. He was accompanied on his visit by a group of senior officials.

Mr. Rey was in Ottawa on June 14 and 15, where he met with cabinet ministers and senior government officials. He also visited Montreal and Quebec.

MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCTION

Production of motor vehicles in May declined to 41,212 units from 45,625 a year earlier and, with decreases in all previous months, output in the January-May period dropped to 180,364 units from 212,865 a year ago. The month's production of passenger cars fell to 34,201 units from 37,796 a year earlier and commercial vehicles to 7,011 units from 7,829. The five-month output of passenger cars decreased to 149,662 units from 174,693 a year ago and commercial vehicles to 30,702 units from 38,172.

"BIG FIVE" FAVOUR SEAT BELTS

Canada's automobile manufacturers have announced that their 1962 models will be equipped with brackets for the installation of seat belts. The Canadian Highway Safety Council has expressed its satisfaction that Ford, Chrysler, General Motors, Studebaker-Packard and American Motors have planned to equip all new models with belt brackets. "Thus we have the whole Canadian automobile industry lining up to make it easier for the driver and passenger to safeguard himself against serious injury," said W.A. Bryce, the Council's executive director. "That seat belts reduce the seriousness of accident injury has already been proved. What remains is that all vehicle occupants use these belts. An industry standard for seat-belt fastening has been reached. Now it's up to the occupant of the car. Installation of seat belts is not the answer. They can be of no benefit unless they are used."

Canadian and United States safety authorities claim the use of seat belts can reduce traffic fatalities by at least one-third.

FEBRUARY IMPORTS

Canada's commodity imports from all countries in February were valued at \$395,100,000, a 12.8 per cent decline from last year's corresponding total of \$452,900,000, according to the summary report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics containing details of the month's imports. The main totals were published in a preliminary statement on April 5. This followed an increase of 7.9 per cent in January, and the combined value for the January-February period declined 3.1 per cent to \$826,300,000, from \$852,300,000 in the like period of 1960.

Among the main sources of supply in February were smaller purchases from the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, France and India, and larger imports from The West Indies, Saudi Arabia and Italy.

Among major commodities, values were smaller in February than a year earlier for non-farm machinery, automobiles and parts, cotton products, farm implements and machinery, and larger for fruits, engines and boilers, crude petroleum and aircraft and parts.