

CRUDE OIL RIGS: Canadian crude oil production in 1952 totalled 61 103,223 barrels, an increase of 28.3 per cent over the 1951 output of 47,615,460 barrels. Western Canada accounted for about 99 per cent of the total, with Alberta yielding 58,915,723 barrels or 96 per cent of the total production. Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northwest Territories all showed substantially increased production over 1951, the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys has reported.

Most of the drilling was again done in Alberta but discoveries in Saskatchewan and Manitoba resulted in a notable increase in drilling in these Provinces over that done in 1951. About 2,223 wells were drilled in Western Canada in 1952, an increase of 852 over the previous year. Of these 1,643 are in Alberta, 496 in Saskatchewan, 70 in Manitoba, and 14 in British Columbia. The Alberta completions (totalling about 6,631,529 feet of drilling) resulted in 944 oil wells, 155 gas wells and potential gas wells, and 544 dry holes. More than 175 oil and gas discoveries and indicated discoveries were made in Western Canada, of which at least 130 are in Alberta.

253 DRILLING RIGS

The number of active drilling rigs reached a record of 253 at the peak of the 1952 season. About 60 per cent of these were on field or extension locations and the remainder on exploratory wells. About 209 rigs were active in Alberta, 31 in Saskatchewan, 6 in Manitoba, and 7 in British Columbia. Geophysical activity was the highest on record during October when about 179 crews were in the field at an estimated cost of \$3,000,000 a month. Of these, 127 were in Alberta, 46 in Saskatchewan, 5 in Manitoba, and one in the Northwest Territories. Seismic surveys constituted nearly 90 per cent of the geophysical activity.

Further expansion of transportation, refinery, and storage facilities has increased the outlets for western Canada crude oil. This in turn has permitted a corresponding increase in production, particularly in Alberta where production potential is higher than required to satisfy currently available markets.

10 PER CENT MORE AUTOS: Almost 10 per cent more motor vehicles were registered in Canada during 1952, the total increasing by 283,577 to 3,155,997 from 2,872,420 in 1951, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Registrations were up in all provinces, the increases ranging from 7.2 per cent in Ontario to 17.8 per cent in Newfoundland.

Registrations increased faster than population in all parts of the country, the average population per motor vehicle declining to 4.6 from 4.9 in the preceding year.

800 RCN'S IN FAR EAST: Canadian destroyers, now on standby duty with the signing of the Korean armistice, on July 30, rounded out a full three years of duty in the Korean war theatre as members of the United Nations naval forces.

More than 800 officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy are on duty in the Far East, as members of the ships' companies of the destroyers Iroquois, Athabaskan and Huron. One of these, HMCS Athabaskan, was among the three original destroyers to sail from Canada for Korean waters on July 5, 1950, just 10 days after the outbreak of the Korean war.

In the three years that three Canadian destroyers, in rotation, have been on continuous operational duty in the Far East, they have covered landings and withdrawals, bombed Communist shore positions and troops, screened aircraft carriers, destroyed enemy mines and aided and protected UN-held North Korean islands. More often than not their duties have taken them into hazardous, poorly-charted waters and within range of enemy shore batteries.

In spite of this, and although the Canadian ships poured scores of thousands of rounds of shells on the enemy and were frequently under fire themselves, just one enemy shell found its mark and gave the Royal Canadian Navy its only battle casualties of the Korean war -- one officer and two men killed and seven men wounded. The ship was HMCS Iroquois and the casualties occurred on October 2, 1952.

25TH BRIGADE IN KOREA: Korea, July 30 -- Following the signing of the Korea truce at which he was the sole Canadian representative, Brig. J.V. Allard, Officer Commanding 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group, was informed that his Brigade would be given the task and honour of guarding the whole of the Commonwealth Divisional Sector.

In speaking to his senior officers, he passed the following message to all ranks of the Brigade. "I think this is a great compliment to us and I seize the opportunity that has been offered. Our units will withdraw from their present positions and spread out over the wider front, while the other two Brigades drop behind us. Ours will be a very responsible job and I know we will do it well."

Brig. Allard went on to impress on his officers the great responsibility in assuring that the truce was not violated by accident. "Every precaution will be taken," he said.

STUDENT VISITORS: A group of students and directing staff, totalling seventeen, of Britain's Imperial Defence College, arrived in Ottawa on August 3 and began a month-long tour of Canada and the United States. National Defence Headquarters has announced.