

NEW SURFACE POST RATES ABROAD

Postmaster-General René Tremblay recently announced several changes in postage rates to other countries effective January 1, 1966. They will coincide with the coming into force of the Universal Postal Convention adopted at the last Congress of the Universal Postal Union.

REASON FOR INCREASE

Such an increase in the rates to certain countries is necessary at this time, Mr. Tremblay explained, in order to compensate for additional transportation charges and mail-handling costs in the international service. Countries handling mail in transit assess charges set by Universal Postal Union agreement on the country of origin. A substantial increase in these charges goes into effect on January 1. There will be no change in the rates on letters and postcards to the United States, its territories and possessions, other countries of North, Central and South America, the West Indies, Britain and the Commonwealth, the Republic of Ireland, France and Spain. To all other countries, letters sent by surface means will be subject to a new rate of 10 cents for the first ounce and 6 cents for each additional ounce or fraction thereof. The rate for postcards will be 6 cents each.

For printed matter and samples, a new rate of 4 cents for the first two ounces and 2 cents for each additional two ounces or fraction thereof will apply to other countries, with the exception of countries of North, Central and South America and Spain to which the domestic printed matter rate of 3 cents for the first two ounces and 1 cent for each additional two ounces and the domestic sample rate of 4 cents for the first two ounces and 1 cent for each additional two ounces will continue to apply.

PARCEL POST

In addition, surface parcel-post rates undergo an adjustment and a significant change in structure as outlined by the Postmaster General. In the present complex parcel-post rate-structure there are some 230 different sets of rates, depending on routing and the country to which the parcels are sent. After January 1, 1966, this number will be reduced to four. The new rates, with the exception of those to the United States, its territories and possessions, which remain unchanged, will apply to three distinct zones rather than to individual countries. Britain and countries in the Americas, excluding the United States, will comprise Zone 1; Europe and Africa will constitute Zone 2; Oceania, including Australia and New Zealand, and Asia will make up Zone 3. This simplified rate-structure will greatly facilitate the work in mail-rooms of business enterprises and in post offices and will help expedite the despatch of parcels to other countries.

Parcel-post weight restrictions will also be changed on January 1, 1966, so that the maximum weight of parcels will be 22 pounds wherever the previous limit was 20 pounds. This new weight limit is the generally recognized maximum in the Universal Postal Union.

AIR-POSTCARD RATE

In making the announcement, Mr. Tremblay said plans were under way for a new uniform air-postcard rate of 10 cents to all countries, which will also become effective on January 1. He said there had been, over the years, an increasing demand for a uniform air rate for postcards and that its introduction now would be particularly convenient for visitors to Expo '67. Postcards sent by air have at present to be prepaid at the regular air-mail letter rate.

BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits issued by Canadian municipalities in April covered construction estimated at \$312,471,000, an increase of 8.5 per cent from the comparable 1964 total of \$288,059,000. This placed the value in the January-April period at \$893,833,000, up by 14.8 per cent from the 1964 first four-month total of \$778,674,000.

The value of residential construction rose 0.3 per cent in the month, to \$156,378,000 from \$155,913,000 a year earlier, and 5.3 per cent in the four months, to \$408,645,000 from \$388,155,000.

PROVINCIAL FIGURES

Permits issued in April were higher in value in all provinces than a year earlier except in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The month's totals (in thousands) were: Newfoundland, \$2,677 (\$1,447 in April 1964); Prince Edward Island, \$750 (\$326); Nova Scotia, \$5,433 (\$4,220); New Brunswick, \$3,926 (\$2,167); Quebec, \$72,291 (\$72,103); Ontario, \$143,581 (\$124,817); Manitoba, \$14,872 (\$9,791); Saskatchewan, \$11,391 (\$11,522); Alberta, \$21,654 (\$23,421); and British Columbia, \$35,896 (\$38,245).

AUTOMOTIVE AID PROGRAMME

The Minister of Industry, Mr. C.M. Drury, and the Minister of Labour, Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, recently announced the establishment of an Adjustment Assistance Board to administer a programme of loans for auto-parts manufacturers and transitional assistance benefits for auto workers.

Professor Vincent W. Bladen, Dean of the Arts and Science Faculty, University of Toronto, has been appointed chairman of the new Board. Professor Bladen served as chairman of the Royal Commission on the Automotive Industry. The other members of the Board are S.S. Reisman, Deputy Minister of Industry, G.V. Haythorne, Deputy Minister of Labour, J.H. Warren, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, and R.B. Bryce, Deputy Minister of Finance.

NEW PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

As a direct result of the Automotive Programme, extensive new production opportunities have become available to Canadian manufacturers of auto parts. In many instances, they are being asked by their customers to make new products or to manufacture existing components on an expanded scale. To