

JULY INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: Time loss due to work stoppages arising from industrial disputes during July, 1950, was up from the previous month, but was lower than in July, 1949, according to a monthly summary of strikes and lockouts issued by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg.

Five strikes accounted for more than 62 per cent of the total time lost during July. These were: knitting factory workers at St. Jérôme, P.Q.; can and canning equipment factory workers at Toronto and New Toronto, Ontario; aluminum foundry workers at Etobicoke, Ontario; painters and decorators at Toronto; and plumbing supplies factory workers at London, Ontario.

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GUNS, SEA FURIES FOR NAVY: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on August 25 two moves to strengthen Canada's fast-growing peacetime Navy.

The moves were:

1. Placing of a large order for special guns of the latest United States type to be built by Sorel Industries in its gun plant at Sorel, Que.

2. Purchase of additional Sea Fury fighter aircraft from the United Kingdom for the aircraft carrier, H.M.C.S. Magnificent, now enroute to European waters on a training exercise.

Mr. Claxton said the Sea Furies were the latest of their type and "with the Avengers recently acquired from the U.S. and the aircraft we already had, this will provide a full fighting complement for the Magnificent up to 1953, with normal rates of loss."

SPECIAL NAVAL GUNS

The Minister said that the special naval guns to be built at Sorel will be three-inch, and will replace some existing equipment in Royal Canadian Navy ships, as well as to equip some ships now under construction. The guns are high velocity, dual purpose weapons for surface and anti-aircraft operations.

"Arrangements have been under way for some months for licences to manufacture these guns in Canada," said Mr. Claxton. "These have now come through from the U.S. Navy and demonstrates the way our services are co-operating closely with those of the U.S."

The Minister said that some discussion had occurred as to whether Sorel would also make some of these guns for the U.S., and "an order from them would naturally be of immense value to us in increasing output so as to get lower unit costs and making economic a faster rate of production."

The Sorel plant is one of the largest single-gun factories in North America "and one of the few capable of making all the major parts of the modern gun right on the establishment."

During the Second World War, the factory

produced a large number of 25-pounders, many of which are still in service of the Canadian armed forces.

Within the last three or four weeks, Mr. Claxton said, the accelerated programme "has been pressed on and hardly a day passes without my putting forward contract demands for large quantities of new equipment and for modification of ships, aircraft and arms we have already."

In the last week, the Minister said, he had signed orders for aircraft modifications and spares totalling more than \$6,000,000 and "more was coming every day."

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RCAF SPEEDS TRAINING: Plans to speed up the RCAF's ground-training programme, in connection with expansion of the Service, were announced on August 28 by Air Force Headquarters. Theoretical instruction previously given to newly-enlisted recruits as part of their initial training now is to be made available at a later date, and the initial training period itself will be shortened.

Many ground trades previously have called for a six-month basic training course, and this will be shortened to approximately three months. This reduction will mean an increased output by air force ground training schools, which are expecting larger numbers of recruits as expansion of the RCAF gets underway.

Air Force Headquarters said that the ground-training changes have been under consideration for some time and that their implementation has been speeded by decision to expand the service.

Job analysis surveys showed that in many cases extensive theoretical instruction for ground tradesmen resulted in wastage, according to Air Force Headquarters. In some cases much of the theory was never used, or was not used sufficiently soon after initial training to enable full value to be gained from it.

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WHOLESALE SALES GAIN: Dollar volume of wholesale sales in June was five per cent higher than in the same month last year, and six per cent above the dollar sales for May this year. Cumulative sales for the first six months this year gained one per cent over the corresponding period of 1949.

The Bureau's general unadjusted index of sales (on the base, average for 1935-39=100), stood at 325.8 for June as compared to 321.5 for May and 310.9 for June last year.

Sales increases were recorded in June over a year ago in all provinces, gains ranging from small increases of one per cent for the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia to nine per cent for Quebec. Cumulative sales for the half-year were practically unchanged from 1949 in Quebec and British Columbia, while in the other provinces increases were below two per cent.