

ARCTIC MEMORIAL: Dedication of a monument to the memory of the victims of a tragic plane crash that claimed the lives of nine men at Alert on Ellesmere Island in July, 1950, was made recently at a ceremony held on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Air Force headquarters announced recently.

The party of 11 American and Canadian personnel who attended the ceremony on the shores of the Arctic Ocean were transported to Alert aboard the Navy ice-breaker U.S.S. Staten Island. For five days prior to the ceremony on August 25 the ice-breaker battered her way through two miles of ice-floes more than 40 feet thick in an attempt to reach Alert in time for the ceremony.

At midnight, with a bright Arctic sun and full moon shining through a cloudless sky, it was decided to hold the scheduled ceremonies on time by making continuous taxi runs with the Staten Island's two helicopters between ship and the airstrip at the joint Canadian-American weather station and scientific observation outpost.

Original plans included having a large portion of the ship's personnel take part in the dedication ceremony. However, with giant ice-floes blocking the entrance to the harbor, it was decided to carry out the airlift plan and hold the ceremony with the eleven men flown ashore.

Alert Weather Station was established in April 1950 by airlift out of Northern Bases. The initial party arrived at Alert on Easter Sunday, April 9. Due to critical lack of some essential supplies an RCAF Lancaster was planning to make a para drop of spark plugs, mail and engine parts.

During the drop the parachute fouled the elevators and caused the aircraft to dive and crash within 300 yards of the station, resulting in the death of all crew members and passengers on July 31, 1950.

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TRADE FAIR AIR SHOW: Next year's Canadian International Trade Fair will feature for the first time a separate aircraft industry section, it was announced on September 23. Arrangements have been made with the National Air Show Committee to hold the 1954 aviation event in conjunction with the Trade Fair, which operates from May 31 to June 11, 1954 at Toronto.

The Trade Fair Administration hopes that practically everything that Canada produces in aeroplanes, engines, instruments and other aircraft parts will be exhibited. This section will be open throughout the period of the Fair and also on Saturday, the day following the Fair's closing. An aerial show on that day will climax the exhibit.

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Canadians sent or received 1,934,433 cablegrams during 1952.

RECORD FARM EQUIPMENT SALES: Sales of new farm implements and equipment -- mainly at wholesale prices -- soared to an all-time peak value in 1952 of \$250,277,000, six per cent above the previous high of \$235,620,000 in 1951, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. At the same time, sales of repair parts climbed in value to \$31,232,000 from \$28,773,000 in 1951, or by eight per cent.

Based on an average mark-up of 22.6 per cent, estimated retail sales of new equipment were valued at approximately \$307,000,000, up from about \$287,000,000 in 1951, when the mark-up averaged 21.7 per cent. By applying an average mark-up of 34.5 per cent, it is estimated that Canadian farmers spent approximately \$42,000,000 on repair parts as compared with \$38,000,000 in 1951 when the mark-up was 33 per cent.

Sales of tractors and engines -- largest among the sales -- declined in value to \$89,992,000 from \$92,662,000 the year before, but harvesting machinery -- next largest -- rose to \$74,336,000 from \$58,641,000. Sales of ploughs were up to \$18,235,000 from \$15,454,000, haying machinery to \$17,230,000 from \$14,844,000, water systems and pumps to \$6,203,000 from \$5,938,000.

Wide variations in trends in new equipment sales were shown in the different sections of Canada. Saskatchewan, the only province with a sales decrease in 1951, recorded sales 24 per cent higher in 1952. British Columbia, on the other hand, had registered a 23 per cent increase in 1951 but reported a fractional decrease in 1952. Alberta's sales were up 11 per cent, while sales in Manitoba were slightly lower than in 1951. Sales for the Prairie Provinces were 64.3 per cent of the all-Canada total in 1952, a sizeable increase over the proportion of 59.9 per cent for 1951. In the eastern sections of Canada, both Ontario and Quebec had reduced sales, while Newfoundland and the three Maritime Provinces as a group had substantial gains.

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ARCTIC PLANNING: The Minister of Resources and Development, Mr. Jean Lesage, has announced the appointment of Mr. Graham W. Rowley, MBE, MA as Secretary-Coordinator of the Advisory Committee on Northern Development. The Committee will be responsible for coordinating the activities of all departments of the federal Government in the development of the Canadian north. This is a new post and is an indication of the increasing importance of the arctic and sub-arctic regions of Canada.

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While Canada's immigrant population of 2,059,911 was two per cent larger in 1951 than a decade earlier, it represented only 14.7 per cent of the total population as compared with 17.5 per cent in 1941.