

A unit, recently installed in the Toronto branch plant of the giant Moore Business Forms Corp., dries the glue on eight-part business forms at a rate of 600 feet a minute. The best conventional dryer operates at a maximum speed of 100 feet a minute. With this new development, drying no longer limits the speed of the business form collating process.

Units are also installed in business form manufacturing plants in New York, Chicago, Montreal, Ottawa and Wichita, Kansas.

A second type of microwave drying chamber, known as a parallel plate region, is designed to dry sheet material such as film, paper, plastics and leather.

One of these units has been installed in the British-American Bank Note Company plant in Ottawa, to evaluate microwave drying of glue on air-mail envelopes. Preliminary tests have yielded encouraging results and success here could open up a wide field of gluebacked sheet stock to microwave drying, Mr. Bleackley says.

A similar unit is being installed at Standard Register Corporation of Dayton, Ohio, and another is going into a E.I. Dupont Nemours plant in Rochester, New York.

Mr. Bleackley has hopes that the parallel plate region will also prove to be capable of drying cereals moving along a conveyor belt. He plans to experiment along these lines with Dr. N.W. Tape of the Canada Department of Agriculture's Food Research Institute in Ottawa.

WHEAT REVIEW

At the half-way mark of the current Canadian crop year shipments of wheat (including flour in terms of wheat) from Canada, the United States, Australia and Argentina amounted to 566.7 million bushels, 18 percent below the previous year's period figure of 693.5 million and 12 percent less than the ten-year (1957-58 - 1966-67) average of 643.4 million for the same period. Canada and Argentina registered increases, while the United States and Australia registered decreases. Supplies of wheat held by the above four countries at February 1, 1969 for export and carry-over at the end of their

respective crop years increased by 27 per cent to 2,593.3 million bushels from 2,042.1 million a year before. Argentina was the only country registering a decrease.

Canadian wheat supplies for the 1968-69 crop year from August to July are estimated at 1,315.4 million bushels, consisting of the August 1 carry-over of 665.5 million and the 1968 crop, estimated at 649.8 million. Supplies of the size indicated represent an increase of 12 percent over the 1,169.7 million of 1967-68. After allowing 165.0 million bushels for domestic requirements, supplies available for export and carry-over during 1968-69 number 1,150.4 million bushels, 15 percent more than the 1,001.5 million in 1967-68.

Exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat equivalent came to 157.9 million bushels during the first half of the current crop year (131.3 million the previous year and 206.7 million for the ten-year average). The balance remaining on February 1 for export and carry-over amounted to 992.4 million, 14 percent above the February 1, 1968 total of 870.2 million. Combined exports of wheat in bulk, seed wheat and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent, during January 1969 came to 20.4 million bushels, 13 percent above the 18.0 million in December 1968 but 3 percent below the 21.1 million of January 1968.

Deliveries of wheat by farmers to elevators up to February 19 of the current crop year amounted to 182.1 million bushels (270.2 million during the previous year period). The total visible supply stood at 401.7 million bushels at February 19, 1969.

LABOUR FORCE

Total employment in Canada increased slightly in January and February, to 7,438,000. There is usually little change in employment at this time of year. Unemployment, at 473,000, was not much changed from that of the previous month. The labour force increased by 20,000 to 7,911,000. Compared to that of February 1968, the labour force increased substantially by 322,000, or 4.2 per cent. Employment also showed a large gain of 331,000, or 4.7 per cent. There was little change in the number of unemployed persons.