

REPORT TO THE NATION

(Continued from p. 2)

"The Government of South Africa indicated that a referendum later this year will be held as to whether South Africa should be a Republic, and if having so decided it wishes to remain a member of the Commonwealth it will then have to ask and will require the consent of all Commonwealth Governments.

"I believe that the unanimous acceptance of the terms of the official communique is convincing evidence of the fact that the day is not far distant when the acceptance by members of the Commonwealth of certain norms or basic principles of equality of all races, colours and creeds will generally accepted....

"In recent years Asian countries have been receiving aid and assistance under the Colombo Plan to raise their standards. Africa is the most under-developed region of the world and I feel that it is urgent and compelling that action be taken to provide assistance to the new countries of Africa as they become free and independent.

"The Conference showed that each of the members, in a spirit of understanding, was conscious of, and concerned with, the welfare of all members...."

\* \* \* \*

CONSTRUCTION IN 1960

Intended construction programme in Canada in 1960 is estimated at a record \$7,317 million, some 2.6 per cent above the previous high of \$7,129 million in 1959. The increase anticipated for 1960 over 1959 compares with gains of 0.5 per cent in 1959, 1.0 per cent in 1958 and 8.8 per cent in 1957.

The 1959 programme gained in most structures over the previous year, but these gains were offset by substantial declines in marine construction and gas pipe-line, owing to the completion of work on the St. Lawrence Seaway and Trans-Canada Pipe-line projects.

The increases in spending for 1960 are concentrated in non-residential building structures; engineering and residential construction are expected to be about level in both 1959 and 1960. Within the engineering category, moderate increases in road building, the construction of water and sewer works and in telephone facilities will be offset by equally moderate declines in marine and railway construction and in the building of power facilities.

The present estimates provide for a further decline in residential construction in 1960.

It is estimated that the number of new housing units started this year will be from 10 to 15 per cent fewer than the 141,000 starts of 1959. However, with 82,000 units under construction at the start of the year, completions are expected to be close to last year's level of 146,000. This will involve a decline of about 4 per cent from the 1959 value of housing "put in place."

An estimated 582,317 full-time workers will be required to implement the 1960 construction programme, and the value of this labour is estimated at \$2,397 million or about one-third of the total value of work performed. The cost of materials needed for this programme is estimated at \$3,486 million or 49 per cent of the total. This proportion has remained relatively constant over the past eight years.

\* \* \* \*

NEW GEOLOGY BUILDING

The study of Canada's geology has been given a major boost with the opening of the new Ottawa headquarters of the Geological Survey of Canada. Speaking at the official opening on May 18, Mr. Paul Comtois, Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, said the modern eight-storey laboratory-office building possessed some of the most advanced facilities in the world for geological research.

Mr. Comtois underlined the fact that the Survey's twofold task of mapping and interpreting Canada's geology and of carrying on essential research had grown tremendously since 1842, when the Geological Survey was established with a budget of only 1,500 pounds sterling. At that time, its job was to assist the infant mineral industries of Ontario and Quebec, then known as the Province of Canada, whereas today it serves an industry that boasts an annual output of over \$2 billion and has for its field of operation a territory of close to four million square miles.

The Minister continued: "Experience over the years has shown that Canada has indeed been richly rewarded for the money it has spent on geological and other research and related projects. The fact is that no country like Canada, with its great wealth of undeveloped resources and its resultant opportunities for industrial growth, can afford to stint on expenditures for research. We in the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, which is essentially a research organization, are keenly aware of this fact."