

HOT CALANDRIA BURIED: Probably the largest radioactive object that has ever been handled, the aluminum tank known as the "calandria" has been taken out of the NRX nuclear reactor at Chalk River, Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, President of Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited, announced on June 26. Several tubes containing uranium rods burst within the two and a half ton tank last December 12, putting the world's most powerful isotope-producing reactor out of action.

In a carefully planned and well-rehearsed operation, the extremely "hot" tank was lifted out of the 35-foot high reactor structure during the evening when few employees were at the project. The radiation field around this tank is approximately equal in strength to that from half of all the radium that has been produced in the world.

MEN FROM U.S. ASSIST

The Chalk River staff has been given valuable assistance in the decontamination of the reactor by No. 1 Radiation Detection Unit of the Canadian Army, personnel of the R.C.A.F., and men from various United States atomic energy projects. These groups, which wanted to gain experience under the direction of the Chalk River staff, provided a larger pool of manpower for the restoration programme. This was needed as in many of the operations workers could enter the radiation fields for only a few minutes. A United States group assisted with the removal of the calandria.

The decontamination and restoration of the reactor, which has gone ahead quickly since the burst of radioactivity up a plant stack caused evacuation of the Chalk River project last December, has attracted considerable interest among the world's atomic scientists. The whole restoration programme has shown that work can be carried out safely in radiation fields that have previously been thought to be too strong to permit access to various parts of a reactor.

After more than five years of operation -- a longer life than had been generally predicted for such a heavy water-natural uranium reactor -- alarms sounded throughout the reactor building to indicate that radioactivity higher than normal had contaminated the reactor. A burst of radioactivity up the 200-foot reactor stack was detected by sensitive monitoring machines throughout the project. A wailing siren sent personnel from the plant in a well-known evacuation procedure.

WHOLESALE PRICES: Wholesale prices continued to move within narrow limits in May, when the composite index rose fractionally to 220.1 as compared with 219.6 in the preceding month, according to the Bureau's monthly report on prices and price indexes. A year ago it was 224.6.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT ACT: Canada's Fair Employment Practices Act, passed at the last session of Parliament, became effective on July 1. The objective of this Act is to prevent and eliminate practices of discrimination against persons in regard to employment and in regard to membership in trade unions because of race, national origin, colour or religion.

Although the Act applies only to works and businesses within federal jurisdiction, it was expected that the legislation would have a far-reaching and healthy influence all across the country, the Minister of Labour announced.

The Act states that no employer shall refuse to employ, or continue to employ, or otherwise discriminate against any person in regard to employment or any term or condition of employment, because of his race, national origin, colour or religion. Further, an employer is not to use any employment agency which practices discrimination against persons seeking employment.

Under the Act, employers are not permitted to publish any advertisement relating to employment which expresses directly or indirectly any limitation or preference based on race, national origin, colour or religion, except in cases where the preference or limitation is based on a bona fide occupational qualification. There are similar provisions against the use of application forms by an employer which express such limitations.

The Act also forbids discriminatory actions by labour unions. No labour union may exclude anyone from full membership, or expel, suspend or otherwise discriminate against any of its members or discriminate against anyone in regard to his employment because of that person's race, colour, origin or creed.

CANAL TRAFFIC RECORD: Freight traffic on Canadian canals established a new modern record for a month in May, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This new peak tonnage amounted to 4,402,774, exceeding the previous high of 4,248,737 tons recorded in September last by 3.6 per cent, and the May, 1952 total of 4,150,931 tons by 6.1 per cent. Increases in barley, soft coal and iron ore loaded through the Welland Ship canal, and barley, wheat and petroleum oils through the St. Lawrence system were mainly responsible for the overall increase.

\$3.8 BILLION INVENTORIES: Total value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturers at the end of April was \$3,851,100,000, a decrease of one per cent from the preceding month's \$3,883,500,000, but nearly five per cent above last year's corresponding total of \$3,682,100,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Shipments during April were at approximately the same level as in March, but eight per cent above a year earlier.