

if recent constructive moves are to continue. Overseas countries are watching with great interest any developments in our two countries which offer an indication of the direction of our trade policies. A positive lead on the part of North America at this critical juncture can, I felt, tilt the balance in favour of progress. By the same token even minor defections on our part are liable to have an influence on the attitudes of overseas countries which goes far beyond their actual impact on trade.

"We must, in these circumstances, make it entirely clear that the United States and Canada continue to attach the utmost importance to the development of more satisfactory trading relations between the countries of the Free World and that we stand ready to pursue the kind of policies which will promote the attainment of these important objectives...."

* * * *

NEW HOUSING ADVANCE: Sparked by an upswing in starts in the Maritimes and Western Canada and in completions west of Quebec, new housing construction showed a sharp increase over last year in July. Advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that 14,191 new dwelling units were started in the month, 2,357 or almost one-fifth more than in July last year, while 8,383 new units were completed, an increase of 1,555 or nearly 23%

The jump in starts put the total for the first seven months of 1954 at 60,589, up 2,009 or 3% from a year earlier, the first time this year that cumulative starts have topped last year's total.

* * * *

INCORPORATED FIRMS: The proportion of incorporated companies in the manufacturing industries has increased at the expense of individually owned concerns, partnerships and cooperatives since the war, according to the latest report on the type of ownership of Canada's manufacturing industries by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Incorporated companies included 36.9% of all manufacturing firms in 1952 as compared with 33.4% in 1946, while individually owned concerns included 44.9 as against 47.3%, partnerships 15.4 as against 16%, and cooperatives 2.8 as against 3.3%.

* * * *

WHEAT SUPPLIES: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on August 25 amounted to 370,011,000 bushels, slightly under the 375,119,000 held a week earlier but 27% above last year's 291,525,000 bushels. Overseas export clearances during the week ending August 25 fell to 4,143,000 bushels from 6,487,000 last year, and cumulative clearances from the start of the crop year dropped to 13,692,000 bushels from 29,751,000.

FISHERIES CONVENTION: The Department of External Affairs announced on September 10 that representatives of the United States and Canada signed on that date in Washington a Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries.

The Canadian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Arnold Heeney, and the Canadian Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Stewart Bates, signed on behalf of Canada. The Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Walter Bedell Smith, and the Special Assistant for Fisheries to the Under-Secretary of State, Mr. William C. Herrington, signed on behalf of the United States.

The Convention provides for joint action by the United States and Canada in the field of fishery research and the elimination of the predatory sea lamprey in the Great Lakes. To carry out this task, both Governments agree to establish a Great Lakes Fishery Commission of three appointees from each country.

The duties of the Commission include the formulation of research programmes regarding the Great Lakes fisheries and the formulation and implementation of comprehensive programmes for the destruction of the predatory sea lamprey which have been playing havoc with some of these fisheries, especially the whitefish and lake trout fisheries.

The Commission may recommend to the Governments, on the basis of research findings, measures to make possible the maximum sustained productivity in the Great Lakes fisheries.

The Commission will have, however, no regulatory powers. In the performance of its functions the Commission will, wherever feasible, make use of the existing state, provincial and federal agencies in each country.

The Convention, with an initial duration of ten years, will become effective upon ratification by both countries.

* * * *

ADVISER IN INDOCHINA: Brigadier T.E.D'O Snow, OBE, CD, of Ottawa, has been appointed to the Canadian Military Truce Team in Indochina as Military Adviser to the Canadian Commissioner for Cambodia, it was announced on September 9.

* * * *

Canada's apple crop is expected to be 12% larger this year than last, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. At the same time the pear crop is estimated to be 14% smaller, and the peach crop is down 12%.

* * * *

Poultry farmers had about 71,695,000 birds at the start of June this year, 5,244,000 or 8% more than at June 1 last year.

* * * *

More favourable weather boosted Canada's maple crop 24% this year to 2,422,000 gallons from 1,948,000 in 1953.