

pieces of which are used in the final grinding of most eyeglasses and other lenses.

Early in this century, most of the world's supply of corundum was produced from deposits in Hastings and Renfrew Counties of Ontario, but these were later supplanted by sources in Africa. The gemstones ruby and sapphire are red and blue varieties of corundum.

In addition to the large crystal, several other forms of corundum are on display in the mineral gallery of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, a branch of the National Museums of Canada.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Canada's consumer price index (1949=100) rose by 0.3 per cent to 154.7 at the beginning of June, from 154.2 at the beginning of May. The index was 4.0 percent above its level of 148.8 recorded 12 months earlier. Five of the seven main component indexes increased from the preceding month. Among them, the food and housing indexes both recorded increases of 0.3 per cent, whereas clothing and transportation prices rose 0.4 and 0.5 per cent respectively. A marginal increase was recorded in the health-and-personal care component, while the indexes for recreation and reading and for tobacco and alcohol remained unchanged from the previous month.

FOOD

The food index increased by 0.3 per cent to 149.4 in June from 148.9 in May, reflecting generally higher meat prices. After declining for seven consecutive months, the price of beef rose by 2.5 per cent, with higher quotations also recorded for bacon, ham, chicken and fish. Fruit and vegetable price movements were mixed. Milk and bread prices increased in several cities, whereas, butter and eggs declined. The food index in June 1968 was 3.2 percent higher than its level of 12 months earlier.

HOUSING

The housing index rose by 0.3 per cent to 157.6 in June from 157.1 in May. Rents advanced by 0.9 per cent, reflecting the many contract changes at this time of year. Among the major cities, the largest rent increases were registered for Montreal, Ottawa,

Calgary and Halifax. Home-ownership costs, by contrast, edged up by 0.1 per cent. Among household operation items, utensils, furniture, floor coverings, and textiles were slightly higher in price. The June 1968 housing index was 4.2 percent above its level of June 1967.

CLOTHING

The clothing index increased by 0.4 per cent to 136.4 in June from 135.8 in the preceding month. Men's and children's wear recorded upward price movements as many sale items returned to regular or higher prices. Footwear, piece goods and clothing services also were higher in price. However, lower quotations for spring coats and sweaters contributed to a 0.2 percent decline for women's wear. The clothing index stood 2.9 percent above its level of June 1967.

OTHER ITEMS

The transportation index rose 0.5 per cent to 161.8 in June from 161.0 a month earlier. Higher inter-city train and bus fares accounted for much of the rise. Automobile operation costs remained unchanged as higher gasoline prices and service charges offset a fractional decline in the price of new automobiles. The transportation index was 2.3 percent above the level recorded a year ago. The health-and-personal care component edged up by 0.1 per cent to 197.9 in June from 197.8 in May. Higher prices were recorded for some toiletries and for men's haircuts in Winnipeg. The health-and-personal care index was 3.8 percent above its level of June 1967. The recreation-and-reading index remained unchanged from the preceding month at a level of 174.2. This index was 4.2 percent higher than last year's figure. The tobacco-and-alcohol index also remained unchanged. At its June 1968 level of 141.1, this index was 10.1 percent higher than at June 1967.

From 1946 to 1967 inclusive, the petroleum industry spent \$14.8 billion in Canada searching for, developing and operating oil and gas fields, and building gathering systems, pipe-lines, refineries, petrochemical plants and distributing and marketing facilities.