

\$2,140.9 million, according to advance figures that will be contained in the April issue of the report "Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries" published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Shipments in the January-April period were valued at \$8,878.5 million, an increase of 7.1 per cent from the total of \$8,293.6 million a year earlier.

Inventories owned by manufacturers at the end of April were valued at \$4,663.7 million, a decrease of 0.4 per cent from the revised estimate of \$4,683.5 million for March and an increase of 3.4 per cent over the \$4,511.6 million estimated for April 1962. Inventories held were valued at \$4,975.2 million at the end of April, down 0.4 per cent from the March figure of \$4,992.6 million but up 4.3 per cent from the April 1962 estimate of \$4,768.0 million. The ratio of total inventory owned-to-shipments was 2.01 in April, compared to 2.07 in March and 2.11 in April last year, while the ratio of finished products-to-shipments was 0.69 in April versus 0.71 in March and 0.72 a year ago.

New orders received in April were valued at \$2,278.3 million, a drop of 0.4 per cent from the revised March figure of \$2,287.5 million but a rise of 6.8 per cent from last year's April value of \$2,133.1 million. Unfilled orders at the end of April, valued at \$2,144.0 million, were down 1.9 per cent from the revised March figure of \$2,186.2 million and down 1.3 per cent from the \$2,173.0 million reported in April last year.

EXPERIMENTAL OYSTER HATCHERY

Canada's first experimental oyster hatchery will be built this summer at the Oyster Culture Station of the federal Department of Fisheries at Ellerslie, Prince Edward Island, according to Fisheries Minister H.J. Robichaud. The purpose of the project is to develop and stabilize the oyster fishery of the Atlantic Provinces.

A contract for the construction of the hatchery and a stand-by generator house has been awarded to R.H. Rankin Construction of Summerside, P.E.I. Construction will be according to specifications prepared by fisheries biologists and engineers.

A CONTINUING HARVEST

The new hatchery is intended to provide oyster seed-stock to Maritime oyster farmers in sufficient quantities to ensure a continuing harvest. Of late years, oyster spat has not been available from its natural habitat, and experience has shown that no reliable prediction of the wild supply can be made in time to avoid waste effort. The uncertainty of the supply of spat for seeding purposes should be relieved if the oyster hatchery is as successful as expected.

Costing approximately \$38,000, the new hatchery will include a controlled sea-water system to provide an environment as close as possible to nature for the successful rearing of oyster spat. The buildings will be annexed to those already at the Ellerslie Oyster Culture Station, which is jointly administered by the Department of Fisheries and its scientific agency, the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

GIFT TO ATLANTIC INSTITUTE

On July 31, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, presented Mr. L.D. Wilgress with the initial instalment of a Canadian Government grant of \$4000 to the Atlantic Institute. The Atlantic Institute, on whose Board of Governors Mr. Wilgress serves, is a non-governmental research organisation supporting NATO and the idea of an Atlantic community. Its headquarters are in Paris.

The Institute will rely primarily on raising funds from private sources for its continuing financial support. Canadian and other member governments of NATO have provided token grants to assist the Institute to begin operation.

FOREST RESEARCH MEETING

Dr. D.R. Redmond, Director of Forest Research with the federal Department of Forestry, will attend a meeting of the Permanent Committee of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations in Finland, August 7 to 17. He is the only Canadian on the Committee, which is composed of members from 13 countries.

The sessions in Turku, Finland, will be followed by tours of forest industries and educational and research institutions, and will conclude in Helsinki. Reports from the various sections of IUFRO and the programme for the next year will be considered by the Committee.

Dr. Redmond will also visit research institutions in England and Sweden.

EMPLOYMENT & PAYROLLS

Canada's industrial composite index of employment (1949=100) stood at 119.2 in April, up 1.2 per cent from the March index of 117.7, as seasonal factors led to increased activity in many establishments.

As usual at this time of year, a large part of the increase occurred in construction, transportation, storage and communication; the rise in the last category reflected the opening of the navigation season in Quebec and Ontario. All provinces except New Brunswick and Alberta posted increases in employment.

Seasonally-adjusted, the Canadian industrial composite index of employment rose to 123.8 in April from 123.6 in March. A decline in forestry reflected larger-than-usual decreases in Ontario. Both durable and non-durable goods manufacturing strengthened between March and April, raising the total manufacturing index to 116.1 from 115.5. Percentage changes in the remaining industrial divisions were small.

The industrial composite of average weekly wages and salaries at \$83.55 in April was up 62¢ from March and up \$3.34 from April last year. The payroll index for April was 233.9, up by 2.1 per cent from the preceding month and up by 6.4 per cent from the same month last year.