

constant at between 700 and 800. The number of available technical persons has varied slightly from month to month at or near the 225 mark.

It is expected that the large graduating class of 1949 - estimated at approximately 3,200, in all branches of engineering - will go far towards balancing the immediate supply and demand situation.

Enrolment at the present time in the pre-final year of engineering (the class of 1950) is about 3,950. In the case of this figure, there will be some reduction due to failures and withdrawals in the spring of 1949 as well as a small number of casualties in 1950 - the graduating year. Possibly from 3,500 to 3,600 will actually graduate in 1950, according to the Bureau's estimates.

The universities estimate that approximately 73 students in architecture will graduate in 1949. To this figure may be added a few who are to be enrolled as Articled Pupils who will eventually attain professional standing by this means. It is not expected that the number of additions to the profession from this source will, in any year, reach 10 per cent of the numbers entering via university training.

MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES: No change or possibly a very slight rise in the total value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturing industries at the end of October is indicated by advance information received by the Bureau of Statistics. Data for the end of September showed a small decrease from August.

Of the main industry groupings, consumers' goods inventories at the end of October appear to have increased somewhat in value after a decline in September, and stocks of producers goods to have increased slightly more than in the previous month. On the other hand, inventories of capital goods have declined slightly. Construction goods inventories appear to have fallen considerably.

A breakdown of the larger groupings shows that in the consumers' goods group, stocks in the food industries appear to be up, after declines in each of the three previous months. Inventories held by sugar refiners, and slaughterers and meat packers have increased. Butter and cheese declined; though total stocks are lower than last year, the October decrease does not appear to have been as large as in 1947. Inventories in the tobacco and beverage group have risen, mainly due to a large increase in tobacco warehouse stocks, though stocks of raw tobacco held by packers continued their seasonal decline. Feed and flour, and pulp and paper inventories both increased, following their regular seasonal pattern. Inventories in most of the semi-durable consumers' goods industries, consisting of clothing, textiles, rubber and leather goods, appear to have declined slightly, but no figures are yet available for leather tanneries, where stocks have probably increased. Durable consumers' goods inventories have fallen, led by the

electrical apparatus and supplies industry.

The majority of industries in the capital goods industries registered slight decreases in inventory values, largest being in the railway rolling-stock and shipbuilding industries. These were balanced to some extent by small increases in the machinery and agricultural implements industry. In the construction goods group also, most industries showed declines, led by the bridge building and structural steel industry. The railway rolling stock, shipbuilding, and structural steel industries are all somewhat special cases, since inventories here include almost the entire value of current production up to the point where major deliveries are made. Increases in inventory values were general among all industries in the producers' goods group.

VEHICLE ENTRIES: Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits in November totalled 75,000, representing an increase of 10 per cent over the same month last year. In November last year traffic dropped below the corresponding figure for 1946. Increases were recorded in traffic entering through ports in all provinces except British Columbia, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

During the first 11 months of this year the number of vehicles entering Canada on permits was 1,777,000, an increase of nine per cent over the same period in 1947, and 22 per cent over the same period in 1946. All provinces shared in the rise over 1947, except British Columbia.

WHEAT MARKETINGS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on December 9 totalled 177,008,000 bushels, slightly under the total for December 2, but 32,488,000 bushels in advance of last year's corresponding total of 144,520,000 bushels, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 9 amounted to 3,439,000 bushels compared with 2,752,000 in the corresponding week last year. Overseas export clearances during the week amounted to 2,036,000 bushels as against 1,200,000 a year ago.

WHOLESALE SALES DOWN: Dollar sales of wholesalers in October fell one per cent below the volume for the same month last year and were two per cent less than in the preceding month, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative sales for the 10 months ending October were four per cent in excess of the dollar sales for the corresponding period of 1947. The general unadjusted index, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 322.6 for October this year, 327.6 for September and 325.5 for October 1947.

Stocks in the hands of wholesalers at the

end of the month were valued 12 per cent higher than on the same date last year, with six of the nine trades surveyed contributing to the gain. Grocery, hardware, tobacco and confectionery, and dry goods wholesalers reported substantial increases in value, ranging between 16 per cent and 18 per cent. Automotive equipment dealers' inventories increased seven per cent in value and drug wholesalers, four per cent. Footwear, clothing, and fruit and vegetable wholesalers, continuing the trend of the past several months, showed lower inventory values.

Three trades were responsible for the general sales index registering a decline. Sales of footwear wholesalers were nine per cent below last year's level, while grocery wholesalers' sales dropped 10 per cent, and fruit and vegetable dealers by 17 per cent. On the other hand, sales of automotive equipment wholesalers rose 20 per cent above October a year ago, reaching the highest dollar sales volume on record. A gain of 15 per cent over 1947 was registered by dry goods wholesalers, while increases of nine per cent, six per cent and five per cent occurred, respectively, in the hardware, clothing, and tobacco and confectionery trades.

On a regional basis, the Prairie Provinces, with a gain of eight per cent over October last year was the only region to record an increase in dollar sales. In Quebec, the volume of sales was unchanged, while a decline of two per cent was recorded for British Columbia, six per cent for Ontario, and seven per cent for the Maritimes.

GROCERY WHOLESALERS: Dollar sales of both wholesale grocers and wholesalers of fruits and vegetables were down in October from September levels and from the dollar volume of October last year.

Grocery wholesalers' sales during the month dropped 10 per cent below the dollar volume of the same 1947 month and were three per cent below September this year, according to statements received by the Bureau of Statistics from 72 of the larger wholesalers across the country. The only region showing an increase in volume over a year ago was the Prairie Provinces, where sales were up two per cent.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: Time loss due to work stoppages arising out of industrial disputes in Canada during November, 1948, was the lowest recorded for any month since February, 1946, according to the monthly summary of strikes and lockouts for November, issued December 21 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

Time loss amounted to only about 18 per cent of the figure for the previous month and 13 per cent of the figure recorded for November, 1947.

Preliminary figures for November, 1948, show 20 strikes and lockouts in existence, in-

volving 3,307 workers, with a time loss of 16,000 man-working days, as compared with 23 strikes in October, 1948, with 7,310 workers involved and a time loss of 87,223 days. In November, 1947, there were 29 strikes, involving 14,775 workers, with a time loss of 119,701 days.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES: Department store sales rose 15 per cent during the week ending December 15 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Alberta led Canada in percentage rise with a gain of 28 per cent, followed by Saskatchewan with an increase of 17 per cent, Manitoba 16 per cent, the Maritimes 15 per cent, Ontario 14 per cent, and Quebec 10 per cent.

EMERGENCY NIAGARA DIVERSIONS: The Department of External Affairs announced on December 23 that notes had been exchanged between Canada and the United States providing for temporary emergency diversions of water for power purposes from the Niagara area.

The notes provide for the diversion above the falls of 4,000 cubic feet per second, as arranged in the exchange of notes between the two Governments on May 3, 1944, through the hydro-electric plants located along the Canadian side of the Niagara River, and the additional diversion of 2,500 cubic feet per second, during the non-navigation season only, through the Welland Ship Canal for use in the DeCew Falls power plant near St. Catharines. The diversion of the 2,500 cubic feet was recently requested by Canada at the instance of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario to alleviate the serious power shortage in Southern Ontario.

In view of the emergency power situation in Ontario, the agreement will be operative provisionally as of December 23, with the understanding that it will enter into force definitively when approved by the United States Senate and if rejected by that body, the agreement will thereupon terminate and the diversion of water provided therein be discontinued.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY: Out of 30,663 manufacturing establishments operating in Canada in 1946, nearly 48 per cent were under individual ownership and almost exactly one-third were incorporated companies, according to a special study by the Bureau of Statistics. Partnerships accounted for 16 per cent of the total and co-operatives for just over three per cent.

Incorporated companies are by a very wide margin the most important in the employment field. These establishments accounted for 86.5 per cent of the employees, while those operated under individual ownership provided employment for only 7.9 per cent of all employees.