

trained labour force. We had proved our capacity to manufacture entirely new products, to adapt our techniques to meet different standards, and to increase our production on a competitive basis -- in short, Canada had become a major industrial nation....

The Minister instanced the St. Lawrence Seaway as a project of mutual interest and added:

"By making full use of our Great Lakes - St. Lawrence System for both navigation and power, industry and commerce in both countries will benefit. Cheap transportation combined with cheap power will bring industrial expansion to the immediate area served, and indirect benefits will spread throughout the North American economy. Not only will the scheme provide power that is urgently needed. It will enable Labrador ore to move to the steel mills of the Great Lakes region via an easily-defended route. In wartime, it would permit additional supplies of oil to reach eastern centres should more vulnerable sources of supply be cut off....

The two nations, Mr. Howe said, could add to their economic strength also by co-operation in the fields of trade and international relationships.

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NEW CARS LEAD SALES RISE: Canada's retail trade increased 13 per cent in August over the corresponding month last year, showing the largest gain since April last year. All provinces and practically all trades shared in the marked sales advance in the month. In the first eight months of this year the rise in all-Canada sales was nearly six per cent.

Outstanding in this year's August results was the 52 per cent gain in motor vehicle dealers' sales -- an indication of the sustained demand for new passenger cars. Coal and wood dealers' sales were up 25 per cent, the second successive month in which marked gains in sales were reported.

Other notable increases were shown by garages and filling stations, with a sales rise of 24 per cent; lumber and building material dealers, 22 per cent; and appliance and radio dealers, 16 per cent. Grocery and combination store sales were up nine per cent.

For the first time in many months, all trades in the apparel group recorded gains in sales volume, with a nine per cent increase in men's clothing stores the largest. Women's clothing store sales rose 7.8 per cent, and family clothing stores three per cent. Of the three minor declines reported, the largest was a drop of two per cent for tobacco stores.

In the January-August period, motor vehicle sales led the advances with a rise of 36.3 per cent over the same period last year, followed by coal and wood dealers at 20.1 per cent, garages and filling stations 13.7 per cent, and appliance and radio dealers 12.5 per cent. Declines in the eight months ranged from 0.4 per cent in restaurant sales to 10.2 per cent for women's clothing.

I.L.O. GENEVA DELEGATES: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg, released on October 16 the names of Canada's delegates to the third session of the International Labour Organization Petroleum Committee, which meets in Geneva from October 24 to November 4.

The Petroleum Committee is one of the eight Industrial Committees of the I.L.O. All these committees are tripartite, consisting of delegates representing governments, employers and workers from the member countries.

Government delegates will be C.T. Richard, K.C., M.P., of Bathurst, New Brunswick, and R.H. Hooper, Industrial Relations Officer of the federal Department of Labour at Winnipeg.

Delegates representing employers will be A.G. Cockrill, Director of Industrial and Public Relations of the British American Oil Company, and W. Yalden-Thomson, Co-ordinator of the Labour Relations and Research Division of the Imperial Oil Company, both of Toronto.

Workers' delegates will be Gordon Fisher of the Oil Workers' International Union, of Lakeview, Ontario; and Marcel Franco, Canadian Representative of the International Chemical Workers' Union, of Montreal.

The meeting will deal mainly with social conditions in the petroleum industry, with special reference to housing and to social services, such as education, medical and transport services, and recreation.

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FARM COSTS STILL RISE: The Bureau's composite price indexes of commodities and services used by farmers, both inclusive and exclusive of living costs, showed further advances between April and August, but in each case the rate of advance was less than from January to April.

Based on 1935-39 equals 100, the composite index, inclusive of living costs, moved up five points in the four months from 196.5 for April to 201.5 for August. This compares with a rise between January and April of 8.6 points from the January standing of 187.9, which was down from 192.3 in August last year. Exclusive of farm living costs, the index rose 5.7 points from 209.7 for April to 215.4 for August as against an advance from January to April of 13.4 points from 196.3 in January. The latest standing of this index compares with 204.2 for August last year.

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REPORT ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES: The growth of Canada's manufacturing industries in the past 30 years is traced in the annual report of the industry for 1947 released on October 16 by the Bureau of Statistics. New records were established during the year in gross and net values of production, cost of materials, salaries and wages, and number of establishments. The number of employees, although below wartime peaks, was at a peacetime high.