

unchanged at 123.0 as higher prices for coal, electricity, some new models of appliances, household supplies and utensils and equipment, were balanced by sale prices for furniture and lower prices for fuel oil and some appliances.

Lower prices for new passenger cars, gasoline and radios offset higher prices for newspapers and phonograph records and the "other" commodities and services index declined 0.1 per cent from 137.7 to 137.6.

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### URANIUM PRODUCTION

The value of uranium production in Canada climbed to \$333 million in 1959, once again being higher than that of any other Canadian-produced metal. The year's uranium-oxide shipments totalled 15,909 tons. In 1958, shipments amounted to 13,537 tons valued at \$274 million. Despite this increase, Canada dropped to second place among the world's uranium producers.

During the year, 23 mines and 19 treatment plants were in operation throughout Canada, but by the year-end only 20 mines and 17 mills were operating. These plants treated a total of 14 million tons of ore having an average grade of 0.12 per cent U3O8.

The reserves of measured, indicated and inferred ore in Canada at November 1, 1959-308.5 million tons grading 0.12 per cent U3O8-are equivalent to 370,200 tons of uranium oxide and are considered to be the largest uranium reserves in the world. This ore-reserve total is, however, considerably lower than figures previously published, largely because the statistics most recently released by some companies do not include inferred (possible) ore.

### OVERSUPPLY OF URANIUM

The net result of the tremendous growth of the uranium industry in the Western world is that there is now an oversupply of uranium. The United States has emerged as the world's greatest producer, and its domestic supply is such that it is no longer dependent upon Canada. Consequently, the United States Atomic Energy Commission, on November 6, 1959, announced that after 1962 it would not exercise its options on the purchase of Canadian uranium. At the same time, Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited announced that arrangements had been made with the United States Atomic Energy Commission and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to allow Canadian producers to stretch out the remainder of their undelivered uranium under firm contract until 1966 and at the same time permit the transfer of uranium-sales contracts between companies. For some time to come, 1959 will undoubtedly be Canada's peak year in uranium production.

The number of persons directly employed by the uranium mines in Canada as at August 31, 1959, was 13,626, but by the following mid-

January, the number had been reduced to 11,792. It is expected that, by the end of 1961, this total will be about halved.

The Port Radium mine on Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories, owned by Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited, continued during 1959 to produce, its rate being 280 tons of ore a day. The Port Radium deposit is nearly exhausted, and present plans call for the cessation of mining operations during the summer of 1960.

Uranium production in the Elliot Lake camp, Ontario, reached an all-time high during the year, amounting to 11,403.6 tons of uranium oxide valued at \$242 million. At December 31, 1959, the estimated reserves of measured, indicated and inferred ore were 297.3 million tons grading 0.12 per cent U3O8. In terms of uranium oxide, these deposits contain 356,760 tons.

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life expectancy at birth has reached 67.6 years for males and 72.9 years for females, according to a new Canadian life table published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and based on deaths in the three-year period bracketing the 1956 Census. For males this compares with 60 years in 1931, 63 years in 1941 and 66.3 years in 1951, while the figures for females were 62.1 in 1931, 66.3 in 1941 and 70.8 in 1951. Females have consistently had a higher life expectancy than males; the difference has increased from 2.1 years in 1931 to 3.3 in 1941, 4.5 in 1951, and 5.3 years in 1956.

Once a child has passed its first year of life its life expectancy increases appreciably. At one year of age a male child at present mortality risks may, on the average, expect to live an additional 69 years and a female 74 years, representing for an infant boy a gain of 1.4 years more than his expectation at birth and 1.1 more years for an infant girl. The expectation of life of a 15-year-old boy is 55.9 years, and of a 15-year-old girl, 60.6 years. At 25 years of age, the expectation is about 46.6 years for men and almost 51 for women; at age 70, 10.5 years for men and 12.2 for women.

The increases in life expectancy have been predominantly at the lower ages, particularly in infancy, and diminishing in old age. For example, since 1931, 3.2 years have been added to the life expectancy of a five-year-old male, 2.1 years to a 20-year-old, over 8 months to a 40-year-old, and just over two months to a 60-year-old as compared with 7.6 years for a newborn male. During this period life expectancy for a five-year-old female gained 7.2 years; 6.0 years for a 20-year-old; 3.7 years for a 40-year-old; and 2.1 years for 60-year-old as compared with 10.8 years for a newborn female.