

Based on the number of non-agricultural wage and salary workers in Canada, the number of man-days lost in August represented 0.06 per cent of the estimated working time. In July the percentage was 0.09. The corresponding figure for August 1960 was 0.11 per cent.

CANADA JOINS ECLA

Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced on October 6 that Canada had become a member of the United Nations regional Economic Commission for Latin America. The Canadian Government's intention to seek membership was announced in the House of Commons on September 11. The recent announcement marked the completion of the necessary arrangements with the United Nations Secretariat in New York and the Commission in Santiago, Chile.

Essentially, ECLA is a centre of economic studies for Latin America. It forms part of the system of regional economic commissions established by the United Nations and was created on February 25, 1948, with the purpose of providing advice and a forum for discussions on raising the level of economic activity in the Latin American area, on strengthening economic relations between countries of the region and other countries of the world, and on technical assistance programmes in that region. The Commission does not itself provide capital or technical aid directly.

Membership in the Commission is open to countries in North and South America. In addition, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands are members of the Commission, and The West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras have associate member status.

NEW PACKAGING OF POSTAGE STAMPS

The sale of postage stamps packaged in transparent sealed envelopes is now under way in post offices across Canada, it was revealed in an announcement made on October 12 by the Postmaster General, William Hamilton, who pointed out that these packages are another original innovation by the Canadian Post Office Department, as no other postal administration has ever offered a similar item for sale.

The attractive clear-plastic packages contain blocks of 20 five-cent stamps or 50 two-cent stamps and sell for the regular price of \$1.00. They are designed to provide patrons with a more convenient method of purchasing postage stamps in quantities to carry in one's pocket or purse. The packages protect the stamps against dirt, moisture and heat. In addition, the packaged stamps provide maximum sanitary protection from printing to point of sale at the postal wicket.

POPULARITY EXPECTED

It is expected that the packages will prove to be very popular with postal patrons, since they will reduce the number of calls that are normally made at

post-office wickets. The packages will also be more convenient to the patron, as they can be kept easily and safely in pocket or purse after opening and, in this way, the stamps are fully protected.

Mr. Hamilton said the idea for the plastic packs had originally started with the sale of special \$1.00-envelopes of stamps during the 1958 Christmas season. This procedure had been followed since then and had proved to be very popular with patrons. The Post Office hopes that patrons will take advantage of the new packaging not only at Christmas-time but throughout the year.

The Postmaster General said that the introduction of packaged stamps for year-round sale represented another step in the Post Office Department's campaign to offer better, more efficient service to the public.

The new packages do not replace the 25-cent booklets of stamps, which are still available at post offices and in postage stamp dispensers.

CHEMICALS IMPORT BOOKLET

A detailed, 56-page study of Canadian imports of chemicals and allied products that may reveal manufacturing opportunities for Canadian firms has been published by the Department of Trade and Commerce. The booklet *Spotlight On Chemicals* was prepared by the Department's Industrial Development Branch in response to numerous requests for more detailed information on chemical imports, in particular those items classified "n.o.p." (not otherwise provided for) in present statistics.

The booklet will enable interested firms to determine what demand there is in Canada for a particular chemical, and whether imports have reached sufficient proportions to warrant manufacturing that product in this country.

The study is presented in three parts. The first lists imports of chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals for medicinal uses and nutritional products. Imports of industrial chemicals are listed in the second section. The third section enumerates imports of other chemicals and allied products. The products grouped in the n.o.p. classifications in the *Trade of Canada-Imports* are listed individually.

The study covers all chemical import shipments valued at \$300 or more during a six-month period. Total chemical imports under the classes analysed amounted to \$65,531,800 during the period, with industrial chemicals accounting for \$40,905,182.

SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS

Cash income from the sale of farm products in the first six months of 1961 is estimated at a record \$1,329.4 million, about 4 per cent above the estimate of \$1,276.1 million in the first half of 1960, and nearly 1 per cent above the previous all-time high of \$1,318.6 million established in 1959. These estimates include Canadian Wheat Board participation payments, net advances on farm-stored grain in Western Canada and deficiency payments made under the provisions of the Agricultural Stabilization Act.