

DECEMBER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Canada's seasonally-adjusted index of industrial production (1949=100) rose 0.7 per cent in December 1961 to 180.5 from 179.3 in November. Increases of 1.4 per cent in the manufacturing index to 160.4 from 158.2, and 1 per cent in that for electric power and gas utilities to 325.5 from 321.8, offset a decrease of almost 3 per cent in the mining index to 276.5 from 284.8. The total index of industrial production in December was some 9 per cent above the level reached in the early months of 1961.

Featuring unusually large gains in December from the preceding month in foods and beverages (3 per cent), rubber (13 per cent) and textiles (9 per cent), the index for non-durable manufacturing rose to 165.1 from 161.5. More moderate increases were recorded for paper products, leather products, clothing and miscellaneous manufactures, while declines were posted in tobacco and petroleum products. The output of chemicals was unchanged.

In durable-goods manufacturing, a rise in lumber production that pushed the wood-products index up, together with a gain in the output of telecommunication equipment that raised the electrical-apparatus-and-supplies index, more than counterbalanced a decline in the transportation-equipment index that reflected reduced output of motor vehicles and parts. As a result the total durable-goods index rose to 154.9 from 154.4.

Production in metal mining and fuel mining was lower in December than November, while output in non-metal mining was higher. In metals, a large increase in iron ore was offset by decreases in uranium, nickel, copper and lead. In fuels, a gain in the natural-gas component, reflecting increased exports to the United States, was more than counterbalanced by a drop in crude-petroleum mining.

AUTHORITY FOR "HAM" MESSAGES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, announced on February 27 that, through an exchange of notes that took place in San Jose on February 23, the Governments of Canada and Costa Rica had entered into an agreement to allow the amateur radio stations of Canada and Costa Rica to exchange messages or other communications from or to third parties, subject to the conditions set down in the notes. These conditions were that amateur stations not be paid any direct or indirect compensation, and that messages be of a technical or personal nature, and exchanged only when recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified.

CURRENT PRACTICE

Canadian radio amateurs are at present authorized to communicate with radio amateurs throughout the world in compliance with the International Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunications Union and with the Radio Act and Regulations of Canada, provided that communications are made in plain language and limited to messages of a technical nature. Radio amateurs generally are not permitted to use their stations for communications on behalf of third parties. However, the International

Radio Regulations recognize that countries may conclude special agreements to permit amateurs of the countries concerned to exchange third-party communications. This will be the third agreement of this type to which Canada is signatory, the others being with the United States of America and with Venezuela. The Canadian Government is at present negotiating similar agreements with a number of other countries.

OPENING DATES FOR SEAWAY

Unless, in the opinion of the Seaway Authority, weather and ice conditions do not allow, navigation on the Seaway canals will open on the following dates: Welland Canal and Third Welland Canal - April 1, Sault Ste. Marie Canal - April 4; South Shore, Beauharnois and Iroquois Canals - April 15; Lachine and Comwall Canals - April 15.

The Authority is advised that the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation proposes to open the Wiley-Dondero Canal and ancillary locks on April 15.

PANEL TO ADVISE ON AIRPORT ART

Seven Canadians prominent in the field of fine arts will advise the Minister of Transport on works connected with the new terminal building for Toronto International Airport, the Minister of Transport announced recently. The seven are: Dr. E.R. Arthur, Director Emeritus, School of Architecture, University of Toronto; Dr. Charles F. Comfort, Director, National Gallery of Canada; Dr. Thomas Howarth, Director, School of Architecture, University of Toronto; John C. Parkin, of John B. Parkin Associates, consulting architects on the project; John A. Russell, Director, School of Architecture, University of Manitoba; Dr. Evan Turner, Director, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; and William Withrow, Director, Toronto Art Gallery.

The panel will examine the consulting architects' proposals on such works as sculptures and murals, and make recommendations to the Minister.

FARM INCOME

Total farm net income in 1961, including changes in farm inventories of grains and livestock, is estimated at \$1,006.0 million, about 24 per cent below the revised estimate of \$1,319.6 million for 1960, and the lowest since 1957, when total farm net income was estimated at \$1,058.3 million.

Although farm operating expenses continued to rise, most of the decline in farm net income between 1960 and 1961 can be attributed to the reduction in the production of Prairie grain crops in 1961 and the consequent drop in the year-end inventories of grain on farms. This becomes quite evident when consideration is given to realized farm net income, which excludes the effects of inventory changes. In 1961, realized farm net income was estimated at \$1,313.2 million, \$10 million above the revised figure for 1960 and 2.4 per cent above the average of \$1,282.7 million for the five-year period 1956 to 1960.