

**RESEARCH CONFERENCE:** The most recent developments in the fields of armaments, explosives and propellants will be discussed October 18 to 29 at Quebec City when 150 scientists and Service technical officers representing Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States will participate in a series of closed sessions. The delegates, attending the Sixth Tripartite Armaments, Explosives and Propellants Conference, last held sessions in Canada in 1950 at Quebec City.

Dr. Omond M. Solandt, Chairman of the Defence Research Board, welcomed the visitors to Canada at Laval University on October 18. All technical discussions will be held at the Canadian Armament Research and Development Establishment, (CARDE) Valcartier, DRB's largest research laboratory, with the delegates returning to Laval University on October 29 for the closing ceremonies.

Conference members meet every 18 months with each of the three countries acting as host in rotation.

Heading the Canadian delegation will be Dr. H.M. Barrett, Chief Superintendent of the Canadian Armament Research and Development Establishment.

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**MANUFACTURING NATION:** Canada is no longer on the fringes of industrialization but ranks among the world's most important manufacturing countries, states the latest General Review of the Manufacturing Industries of Canada published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 167 page report provides a general analyses of manufacturing development with detailed treatment of current production by individual industries and such principal factors as physical volume of production, capital, employment, salaries and wages, size of establishment and power and fuel. The report also deals with the provincial and local distribution of manufacturing production, and provides an alphabetical list of products manufactured in Canada.

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**STORE SALES UP 23.3 P.C.:** Department store sales rose 23.3% during the week ending October 9 as compared with the corresponding week last year. All provinces shared in the rise, Manitoba leading with a sharp gain of 49.6%, followed by British Columbia with an increase of 40.3%, Alberta 23.2%, Quebec 17.6%, Ontario 14.8%, the Atlantic Provinces 14.2%, and Saskatchewan 12%.

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It is presently estimated that more will be spent on street lighting construction in Canada this year than in the two preceding years combined. Expenditures are expected to total \$5,214,000 as compared with \$2,044,000 in 1953 and \$1,995,000 in 1952.

**EMPLOYMENT MAINTAINED:** Employment was maintained in most of Canada during September although there were indications that the usual seasonal peak in labour demand had been reached during the month, the Department of Labour and Dominion Bureau of Statistics announced jointly on October 20. This annual peak in employment occurred somewhat later this year than last. The high level of fall construction activity and the larger than usual increase in logging employment during the month were important factors affecting the situation.

Coincident with the seasonal easing in labour demand was the withdrawal from the labour force of students and other short-term seasonal workers. The extent both of this withdrawal and of the decline in the number of jobs available was less than a year ago. The fact that there were more people leaving the labour force during the month ending September 18 than the decline in the number of jobs available, resulted in a lower level of unemployment than in August. This development in turn was reflected in an improvement in local labour markets.

Compared to a month ago, the number of areas in balance increased from 68 to 73 and those in the moderate labour surplus category decreased from 38 to 34; those in the substantial surplus category remained at two.

The civilian labour force totalled 5,483,000 in the week ended September 18, 1954, compared with 5,569,000 in the week ended August 21, 1954.

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**AUTO SALES DROP NARROWS:** Sales of new motor vehicles continued to decline in August but the drop was the smallest this year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's sales were down 5.5% from a year ago, while January-August sales were reduced 16.6%.

Total number of new vehicles sold in August was 27,439 as compared with 29,040 in the corresponding month last year, bringing cumulative sales for the January August period to 289,015 as compared with 346,501. Retail value in August was \$69,772,000 as compared with \$73,145,000, and the aggregate for the 8 months was \$743,351,000 as compared with \$868,276,000.

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Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit increased in August to 112,659 from 106,269 in the preceding month and 74,052 in the corresponding month last year.

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The average number of employees per manufacturing firm ranges from 10.4 in the wood products group to 308.3 in the rubber products group.