

let in Canada for these items. When account is taken of the fact that the net value of manufacturing in the prairie provinces was only about six per cent of the total in the latest year for which figures are available, the prairies appear to have done rather well.

Particular reference has been made to the lack of defence contracts in Saskatchewan, and I want to outline some recent developments to correct the mistaken impression that Saskatchewan is being left out of the defence programme.

In the month of April of this year, defence orders worth nearly half a million dollars were placed by the Department of Defence Production in Saskatchewan. In May, Defence Construction Limited awarded contracts for over \$4 million for work in Saskatchewan, and there are other defence contracts which are now being tabulated. Mention should also be made of the expenditures in this fiscal year by the Department of Transport on behalf of the Department of National Defence for landing strips and runways in Saskatchewan.

It is planned to spend \$965,000 for military landing strips and runways, and another \$440,000 for similar civilian facilities. Such direct government expenditures do not fully reflect the impact of the defence programme on Saskatchewan. For example, Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited plans to spend about \$2 million this year on uranium production in Saskatchewan. This is not a part of the government's defence vote, but it is a defence expenditure which will contribute substantially to employment and income in that province.

Before concluding my references to the general purchasing branch, I should just like to say a few words about the Canadian Commercial Corporation. As I mentioned at the beginning, most of the personnel of the old Canadian Commercial Corporation has been absorbed into the department proper. However, the Government has decided that it would be useful to maintain the corporate entity of Canadian Commercial Corporation, although its staff has been reduced to approximately twenty-five. The main task of the Canadian Commercial Corporation, as now organized, is to act as a purchasing agent for foreign governments securing supplies in Canada. It will also be used by the Government for the purchase of strategic and other materials for stockpile.

One of the most vexing problems facing us today is the over-all shortage of strategic materials. Before referring to what we are doing in this field in Canada, I might mention some of the international studies that have been made or are being made.

For some months the Organization for European Economic Co-operation has been devoting considerable time to this question, as has the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There have been special rubber and tin conferences, and at the last meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers it was agreed to extend the terms of reference of the Commonwealth Liaison Committee so that this group could keep the special Commonwealth aspects of the raw material situation under review. I might explain that the Commonwealth Liaison Committee is a standing committee composed of all the Commonwealth High Commissioners in London, and includes senior representatives of the appropriate United Kingdom ministries.

However, the most important work currently being carried out in the materials field is being done in Washington by the International Materials Conference. This conference