

have been falling and indications are that this major deterrent to overseas lumber sales may well be removed during the current year. These factors are significant indicators of a probable recovery from the decline in lumber exports which began in the latter part of 1956. Thus, while lumber export volume in 1957 is expected to total less than that of 1956, prospects for improvement in over-all demand appear somewhat brighter for the second half of the year.

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MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: Record numbers of new motor vehicles were sold and financed in Canada in 1956, according to revised figures in the Bureau of Statistics annual report on new motor vehicle sales and motor vehicle financing for 1956. Total sales increased 7.2 per cent to 499,370 units from the previous peak of 465,678 units in 1955 and the retail value rose 15.8 per cent to \$1,454,213,000 from \$1,255,890,000 in 1955 (previous high). Number financed rose 10.8 per cent to a record 663,749 units from 599,330 and was 3.6 per cent above 1953's record 640,512. Value of financing jumped 26.6 per cent to \$910,833,000 from \$719,328,000 a year earlier and was 25.5 per cent greater than 1953's high of \$725,545,000.

Number of new passenger cars sold climbed to a record 407,710 units from 1955's previous high of 386,962 and the retail value to \$1,127,523,000 from \$1,023,351,000 a year earlier (previous peak). Number of commercial vehicles sold rose to 91,660 units from 78,716 in the preceding year but was below 1951's peak total of 109,962. Selling value reached a record \$326,690,000 compared to 1955's \$232,539,000 and 1952's high of \$278,495,000.

New vehicles financed set records for both number and value in 1956, surpassing 1953's high totals by substantial margins, while used vehicles numbered slightly less than 1953's record total but the value exceeded 1953's peak. New vehicles financed numbered 224,905 in 1956 compared to 185,127 in 1955 and 189,052 in 1953 and the amount of financing totalled \$520,944,000 compared to \$375,997,000 and \$342,247,000. Used vehicles financed totalled 438,844 against 414,203 and 451,460, and the value amounted to \$389,889,000 versus \$343,331,000 and \$383,298,000.

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SCHOLARSHIPS INCREASED: An increase in the number of four-year undergraduate scholarships in The International Nickel Company of Canada's programme for aid to higher education has been announced by John F. Thompson, Chairman, and Henry S. Wingate, President of the company.

In addition to the forty scholarships which were awarded by the company last fall for the four-year academic period ending June, 1960, 25 more will be awarded in September, 1957, and a like number each succeeding year until a

total of 100 is in effect, 25 in each class, beginning with the 1960-61 academic year.

Each scholarship will provide to the student annually the cost of tuition and fees and \$300 as a reasonable allowance for books and a portion of living expenses, and to the university a cost-of-education supplement of \$500. The total grant for each scholar will be a maximum of \$1,200.

Seventy-two of these scholarships, or 18 annually, will be awarded by the universities participating in the programme for study in engineering, geology, geophysics, metallurgy and mining. Twenty-eight scholarships, seven annually, will be restricted to children of the company's employees and will permit free choice of institution and field of study.

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EDUCATION GRANTS: Special grants from the Province of Ontario to elementary school boards have been increased by an additional \$3 per pupil of average daily attendance in 1956, it was announced recently in a joint statement by Provincial Treasurer Dana Porter, Q.C., and Education Minister William J. Dunlop. This increase brings the special grant up from \$8 to \$11 per pupil.

Premier Leslie M. Frost said this would bring the total grants to elementary schools up to \$104 million for the year, the additional \$3 per pupil grant representing an expenditure by the Province of \$3 million.

The statement made by Provincial Treasurer Porter and Education Minister Dunlop said: "This special grant is being provided in recognition of the abnormal needs and conditions which have arisen with respect to the provision of adequate teachers' salaries as well as the need for improvement in the elementary schools of Ontario."

"Beginning in 1958," the two ministers stated, "the second stage of the Province's programme, which will be based upon equalized municipal assessment, will be brought into operation. With the growth in magnitude of these grants, considerations of equity dictate improved methods of distribution."

"An exhaustive study is being made of school finances to enable the Province to shape its educational grants more in accordance with the developing needs of all municipalities. The third stage, in 1959, will be devoted to making refinements and improvements in the school grants formula."

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NEW TERMINAL BUILDING: The new Airport Building at Stephenville, Newfoundland, was officially opened for operations on May 30.

A feature of the building is the provision of facilities for the reception of Trans-Atlantic passengers, whenever occasion demands, as an alternate to Gander, although the terminal is primarily designed for handling domestic flights.