VISITS OTTAWA: The Australian Minister for External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey, was in Ottawa November 4-7. Accompanying him were Mrs. Casey, Mr. Brian Hill of the Australian Mission to the United Nations in New York, and Mr. Richard Gardner, his private secretary, all of whom were guests at Government House.

During the visit, Mr. and Mrs. Casey were entertained by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and Mrs. Pearson and by the acting High Commissioner for Australia and Mrs. T.A. Pyman. Mr. Casey held a press conference and called on Prime Minister St. Laurent.

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INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH: Canadian industry spent a total of $65,870,000 in 1955 on research-development, according to an advance release of results of a recent survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the National Research Council covering nearly 2,500 of the larger Canadian companies. Anticipated expenditures for the current year are 20 per cent larger at an estimated $79,305,000.

The survey covered basic and applied research in the sciences, including medicine, and in engineering, and design and development of prototype and processes. Excluded were expenditures on quality control, testing of products, testing of assembly-line and production techniques, market research, sales promotion and services, geological and geophysical exploration, and research in the social sciences.

On an industry basis, largest research-development expenditures in 1955 were in transportation equipment at $16,555,000. Outlays in this field are expected to rise to $22,770,000 during this year. Next in order were electrical apparatus and supplies at $10,780,000 in 1955 ($11,895,000 anticipated for 1956) and chemical products at $7,845,000 ($10,135,000).

Expenditures of other industry groups in 1955, in descending order of magnitude, with anticipated 1956 outlays in brackets, were as follows: products of petroleum and coal, $4,705,000 ($5,655,000); non-ferrous metal products, $4,530,000 ($5,110,000); paper products, $4,050,000 ($4,595,000); transportation and public utility operations, $3,350,000 ($3,370,000); iron and steel products, $3,085,000 ($3,295,000); mining, quarrying and oil wells, $3,045,000 ($3,620,000); rubber products, $2,715,000 ($2,995,000); foods and beverages, $1,705,000 ($1,800,000); textile products, $1,160,000 ($1,295,000); non-metallic mineral products, $1,100,000 ($1,070,000); other non-manufacturing, $700,000 ($930,000); other manufacturing, $295,000 ($515,000); leather products, $155,000 ($170,000); wood products, $95,000 ($85,000).

Out of the total 1955 expenditures of $65,870,000, Canadian companies spent $52,000,000 within their own organization and $12,000,000 outside of Canada. The remainder went to other firms and to universities in Canada.

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MONTHLY PEAK: Canadian labour income reached another new monthly high in August. At $1,229,000,000 the month's total was up $6,000,000 from July's $1,223,000,000 and up $122,000,000 or 11 per cent from last year's August total of $1,107,000,000. This boosted the January-August total about 11 per cent to $9,223,000,000 from $8,311,000,000 a year earlier. All industrial divisions shared in the rise in August and the eight months as compared with a year earlier.

Group totals for August were as follows, in millions: agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping, mining, $98 ($85 a year earlier); manufacturing, $379 ($351); construction, $105 ($93); utilities, transportation, communication, storage, trade, $319 ($284); finance, services (including government), $286 ($256); and supplementary labour income, $42 ($38).

January-August totals were: agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping, mining, $652 ($586); manufacturing, $2,962 ($2,678); construction, $696 ($576); utilities, transportation, communication, storage, trade, $2,385 ($2,168); finance, services, $2,206 ($2,011); supplementary labour income, $322 ($292).

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40-HOUR WEEK: The trend toward the 5-day 40-hour week among manufacturing employees has continued in 1956, according to information released by Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Labour. The information was based on the annual survey of working conditions among manufacturing plant employees conducted by the Labour Department's Economics and Research Branch. The study showed that the proportion of factory workers on a 5-day week was 86 per cent in 1956 as compared with 84 per cent in 1955. Similarly, the proportion of factory workers having a 40-hour week or less was greater in 1956, 62 per cent as compared with 58 per cent in 1955.

Three-week vacations were reported for a larger proportion of plant employees in 1956, 63 per cent as compared with 60 per cent in 1955. Fifteen years service was found to be the most common requirement for three-week vacations. A jump was also reported in the number of workers in establishments granting four-week vacations, 10 per cent as compared with seven per cent in 1955. The study showed that the usual service requirement for four-week vacations was 25 years.

This annual survey of working conditions covers almost all manufacturing establishments having 15 or more employees. In the 1956 study, replies were received from about 6,200 establishments.