

CHEMISTRY RALLY

Scientists from 40 countries who will attend the Eighteenth International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry in Montreal from August 12 to 16 will be visiting a country with a chemical industry that has reached the \$1,500 million mark. The industry is a vital one in Canada, with 54,312 persons employed in 1,141 chemical plants. Its economic importance is indicated by the \$240 million earned in salaries and wages in Canada's chemical industry. These plants burn more than \$50 million in fuel and electricity and use some \$625 million in raw materials. Imports hover about the \$340 million mark, and exports at about \$240 million.

The chemical industry in Canada is located mainly in the central provinces, although Edmonton in the western sector, with its oil industry, is as much part of the industry as Montreal, Toronto, Samia, Windsor, Trail and Niagara Falls. Almost 90 per cent of the jobs in this industry are held in Ontario and Quebec.

The industry is broken down basically into two groups, producers of basic chemicals used primarily by the chemical industry itself but also by others, and producers of allied chemical products whose output is sold through wholesale and retail outlets directly to the ultimate consumer.

FUTURE OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

The scope for the chemical industry in Canada may be gathered from the fact that one out of three of the nation's manufacturing establishments employs chemical processes and makes products essentially chemical in nature. Industries such as metals, wood-pulp, petroleum products, explosives, fertilizers, soap, plastics, synthetic rubber, synthetic fibres, cement and glass are examples.

In terms of millions of dollars, the Canadian chemical industry has grown from \$129 in 1920 to \$223 in 1940 and to its present \$1,500 million value status in 1960.

It has been predicted by a recent Royal Commission that the expansion of the chemical industry in Canada will continue for many years. One of the criteria for such growth is expanded basic and applied research, and the Commission has noted that the trend is toward more research of this kind by industry.

One of the big factors in Canadian research is the National Research Council, a government-operated organization. New research facilities are constantly being installed by industry.

APRIL RETAIL SALES

Canadian retailers had sales estimated at \$1,358,494,000 in April, a decline of 5.2 per cent from \$1,432,251,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to a report released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This followed a 2.9 per cent

advance in March and decreases of 2.0 per cent in February and 0.7 per cent in January. In the January-April period, sales declined 1.3 per cent to \$4,942,638,000 from \$5,009,626,000 in the like span of 1960.

All provinces had sales decreases in April, compared with the corresponding month last year, ranging between 0.2 per cent for Alberta and 6.3 per cent for Ontario. In the January-April period Quebec had a sales gain of 0.7 per cent and Alberta an increase of 1.4 per cent. Decreases in the other provinces were between 0.2 per cent in Manitoba and 4.7 per cent in British Columbia.

Among the trades, there were sales increases in April of 6.0 per cent for fuel dealers and 3.2 per cent for lumber and building-material dealers, and decreases ranging from 0.7 per cent for drug stores to 19.5 per cent for shoe stores. In the January-April period, six trades had sales increases; general stores 1.0 per cent, department stores 1.4 per cent, variety stores 3.7 per cent, garages and filling stations 0.5 per cent, family-clothing stores 3.3 per cent, and fuel dealers 0.7 per cent. The other trades had sales decreases between 0.7 per cent for drug stores and 6.5 per cent for motor-vehicle dealers.

IRON ORE SHIPMENTS

Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines in April decreased 3.3 per cent to 341,335 tons from 352,924 a year earlier. With a decline of 2.2 per cent in shipments in the first quarter, deliveries in the January-April period fell 2.5 per cent to 1,346,713 tons from 1,381,328 in the corresponding 1960 period. End-of-April stocks were substantially larger than a year ago at 4,023,084 tons versus 2,845,792.

Iron ore shipped for export fell in April to 131,581 tons from 159,620 a year earlier, but rose in the January-April period to 814,405 tons from 795,061. The month's shipments to Canadian consumers increased to 209,754 tons from 193,304, while four-month shipment decreased to 532,308 from 586,267.

Total shipments were larger in April, compared to a year earlier, from mines in Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta and British Columbia; no iron ore was shipped from mines in Newfoundland. January-April shipments were above year-earlier levels from mines in Quebec, and Alberta and British Columbia, and below a year earlier from mines in Newfoundland and Ontario.

FAO FISHERIES MEETING

Expert opinions on the economic aspects of fisheries management and the results of studies made in various countries on the economic effects of fishery regulations were discussed during the week June 12-16 in a series of meetings sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The Canadian Government was host to the conference at the request of FAO, in recognition of

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