

"The Government and the people of The Netherlands have the fervent wish that these new Canadian arms, in their hands, may contribute to bring about the peace which our countries and our world cherish and stand for."

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MANUFACTURING PEAK IN 1949: The estimated gross factory value of products manufactured in Canada in 1949 was \$12,378,731,000 -- an all-time peak total -- as compared with \$11,876,790,000 in the preceding year, an advance of \$502,000,000, according to a preliminary report on manufactures in Canada released by the Bureau of Statistics. Approximately 10 per cent of the year's increase is accounted for by the inclusion for the first time of manufacturing plants in Newfoundland.

Employees engaged in manufacturing were estimated at 1,159,315, slightly above the previous year's total of 1,156,006, while the estimated salary and wage payments aggregated \$2,566,104,000 as against \$2,409,809,000 the year before. The cost of materials used in the process of manufacture was \$6,764,896,000 as against \$6,632,881,000 a year earlier.

Out of 17 industrial groups listed in the report, only two had a lower gross factory value of production in 1949 than in 1948. The food and beverage group of industries -- largest of the 17 groups -- had a gross value of production of \$2,872,336,000 in 1949 as compared with \$2,839,531,000 the year before. Next were iron and steel products at \$1,408,912,000 compared with \$1,320,527,000; paper products, \$1,091,666,000 compared with \$1,061,359,000; transportation equipment, \$1,062,903,000 compared with \$941,483,000; non-ferrous metal products, \$865,398,000 compared with \$844,598,000; and wood products at \$824,407,000 compared with \$838,939,000.

In addition to general statistics for the 17 major groups, the report contains for the first time preliminary data on gross value of products, cost of materials, employees, salaries and wages, and cost of fuel and electricity for individual industries, and for the first time provides preliminary information on the production of 1,000 important commodities or commodity groups.

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END STATE OF WAR WITH GERMANY: The Department of External Affairs announced on October 26 that, having regard to the desirability of bringing the Federal Republic of Germany into closer association with the community of free nations, the Government has decided to take the necessary action in Canada to terminate the state of war with Germany, as soon as it is in a position to do so.

Such action will be quite distinct from any final settlement that may be concluded with Germany and it will in no way affect Germany's obligations in respect of such matters as debts and claims.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES RISE: Department store sales in Canada in September, excluding Newfoundland, totalled \$78,312,000, an increase of three per cent over last year's September figure of \$76,146,000. During the first nine months of the year, sales advanced to \$572,127,000 from \$565,427,000 in the similar period of 1949, or by one per cent.

Sales in September were higher in all provinces except Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Ontario's total -- largest in dollar value among the provinces -- was up from \$27,916,000 to \$29,117,000, while in Quebec there was a gain from \$12,197,000 to \$13,294,000. In Manitoba the value fell from \$11,372,000 to \$11,259,000, but was up in British Columbia from \$9,226,000 to \$10,028,000. The total for the Maritimes advanced slightly from \$5,598,000 to \$5,648,000, and Alberta's total rose from \$5,065,000 to \$5,263,000. The value for Saskatchewan was down from \$4,772,000 to \$3,703,000.

Most changes in sales volume in September as compared with a year earlier differed little from the overall increase of three per cent for all departments, the exceptions being a 24 per cent rise in household appliances and electric supply sales and a 17 per cent increase in radio and music department sales. Furniture sales were up five per cent. All declines in sales volumes were of moderate proportions.

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INCREASED AUTO ENTRIES: Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits increased five per cent in September over the same month last year, while in the first nine months of this year, entries were four per cent above the similar period of 1949. Increased entries were recorded in all areas in September except Nova Scotia and Manitoba, while in the nine months there were declines in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and the Yukon Territory.

The total number of entries in September was 277,381 as compared with 264,467 in September last year, bringing the cumulative total for the nine-month period to 1,778,716 units as against 1,717,534 in the same months last year.

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MORE DWELLINGS COMMENCED: Starts on the construction of new dwelling units in July exceeded the number of completions for the fourth successive month, resulting in a further substantial rise in the carry-over of dwellings in various stages of construction at the end of the month.

The number of dwellings on which starts were made in July was 10,245 as compared with 9,086 in the corresponding month last year, raising the total for the seven months ending July to 52,394 from 49,285 in the like 1949 period. Completions in July rose to 6,853 from 6,588 a year earlier, but were down in the seven months to 42,821 from 46,326.