

and is even more popular this year. The material is much heavier and more durable than polyethylene and comes in 15'x20' sheets complete with first-grade securing ropes and reinforced grommets. The material is transparent, is not affected by heat or cold and will not crack or weaken when folded or creased. It will not rot when stored and does not have to be dried out after exposure to rain. Experience has indicated that one Polytarp House can be used in the construction of over 500 houses.

The other development concerns reinforced polythene manufactured by Mastex Industries Limited in Winnipeg. This material can be made up in the form of a bubble under which a house can be constructed. The people showing this material indicated they had received firm orders for over 25 bubbles during the exhibition.

TRADE ENVOY TO NIGERIA

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced recently that Mr. Howard W. Richardson had been appointed Trade Commissioner in Lagos, Nigeria, where he would assume responsibility for the further development of trade relations with that country, in co-operation with the Commissioner for Canada. With the opening of this office later in the year, the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service will be represented in sixty-one leading commercial centres around the world.

In December 1958, the Nigerian Government announced a liberalization programme to affect imports from dollar countries, starting January 1, 1959, items permitted to enter under Open General Licence being similar to those admitted from the United Kingdom. By the establishment of a trade office in Lagos, through which they can contact the large European trading companies and other firms operating in Nigeria, Canadian exporters can take advantage of this favourable situation.

Canada's exports to Nigeria in 1958 had a value of \$337,000, to which flour contributed \$119,000. Imports from Nigeria in 1958 had a value of \$2.37 million, to which cocoa beans contributed \$2.26 million.

JANUARY PRICE INDEX

Canada's consumer price index declined 0.3 per cent from 127.9 to 127.5 between December 1959 and January 1960. The latest index is 1.1 per cent above the January 1959 index of 126.1. In the current period, movement of the total index resulted from a lower food index combined with the effects of January sales in clothing and home-furnishings. Shelter was up fractionally, while the component for "other" commodities and services was unchanged.

The food index declined 0.7 per cent from 122.4 to 121.6, to stand below the January

1959 index of 122.3. Egg prices recorded a further substantial decrease of 6¢ per dozen, as grade "A" large averaged 42¢. Oranges, orange juice, and lettuce were lower and beef and pork prices also eased slightly. Chicken and lamb were higher, fresh vegetables recorded seasonal price increases and canned vegetables registered slight advances.

The clothing index decreased 1.1 per cent from 111.4 to 110.2 as traditional January sales were in evidence on a wide range of men's, women's, and children's wear, as well as some items of footwear. Sale prices particularly affected women's fur and cloth coats, men's overcoats, and women's overshoes. The shelter index moved from 142.7 to 142.8, a fractional increase of 0.1 per cent. Rents were unchanged, but the home-ownership component was up.

The household operation index, also reflecting January sales in appliances, furniture, and textiles, declined 0.3 per cent from 123.7 to 123.3. Some utensils and equipment and household supplies were higher. The "other" commodities and services index was unchanged at 136.9 as somewhat lower prices for new passenger-cars and gasoline were offset by rates which averaged higher for hospitals and newspapers.

PORK EMBARGO REMOVED

Canada's prohibition against the importation of swine, uncooked pork and uncooked pork products from the United States was removed on February 8. Agriculture Minister Douglas Harkness said the embargo was imposed in 1952 under the provisions of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, following a severe outbreak of vesicular exanthema in the United States. He added that the U.S. declared its swine industry free of vesicular exanthema on October 22, 1959, and that there has been no outbreak of the disease since November 1956.

Discussions between veterinary officials of the two countries satisfied Canadian authorities that the disease no longer posed a threat to the Canadian swine industry.

Mr. Harkness stated that the removal of the restrictions on U.S. pork imports into Canada, now that vesicular exanthema has been eradicated in the United States, is in keeping with the principle followed in dealing with international restrictions on animal health grounds.

He recalled that the embargo imposed by the United States against the import of Canadian meats after the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Canada in 1952 was removed following certification by Canadian veterinary authorities that the disease had been eradicated.

More recently, in 1958, certain states had imposed embargoes against Canadian sheep because Canadian measures for the control of scrapie disease were not considered as rigid as those followed in the United States. The