

The prototype instrument was developed in the Manufacturing Technology Centre of the Division of Mechanical Engineering after a request was made for research assistance into railroad beacons by Canada's two major railways and the federal Board of Transport Commissioners, now the Canadian Transport Commission. Westhill Industries of Montreal, a metal-processing firm whose main interest is manufacturing aerospace products, was awarded a competitive contract for production of an initial order of 50 units to be used for experimental test purposes.

LAMP'S SCREAMING BRIGHTNESS

The brightness of the NRC lamp is greater than any on the market today. The usual "gull-wing" reflector that splits a beam of light in two, thus halving its intensity, has been eliminated. Through the use of a single reflector the lamp is able to transmit total available candle-power.

E.S. Moore, head of the Manufacturing Technology Centre, believes that the best aspect of the new lamp is the fact that it has been engineered with special emphasis on biological effects of the sweeping beam of light on an observer. Tests were undertaken to determine the rate of sweep for the beacon that would best command attention.

"This beacon registers strongly on your peripheral vision," Mr. Moore says. "It literally screams at you that a train is coming."

Armand Boisclair, President of Westhill Industries, estimates the market potential in Canada is some 5,000 units with a unit selling price of \$125. Preventing one accident like the 1967 schoolbus-train collision at Dorion, Quebec, that took the lives of 26 children, would pay for all of the beacons in one shot, he says.

WOOD IN HOUSING DISPLAY

An international exhibition illustrating the use of wood in housing was opened in Vancouver on July 5 by Mr. Bruce Howard, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. "The display will show the materials and techniques which have made Canada a world leader in timber-frame construction, which have encouraged a wide acceptance of the use of wood in housing in Britain and other parts of Western Europe, and which could be very helpful in meeting housing needs in developing countries," Mr. Howard said.

The exhibition was held as a feature of the World Consultation on the Use of Wood in Housing, which was held in Vancouver from July 5 to 16. Canada was host for the Consultation, which was attended by representatives of more than 50 nations from major areas of the world.

Emphasis was on the housing needs of developing countries. The conference was co-sponsored by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning and the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations.

Canada's Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce organized the exhibit in which there were also displays from the United States, New Zealand, Norway and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations.

CONSUMER PRICES UP

From April to May, consumer price indexes rose in all ten regional cities and city-combinations, with increases ranging from 0.2 per cent in Edmonton-Calgary and Vancouver to 0.7 per cent in Toronto. Food indexes advanced in all cities, with higher quotations registered for fresh produce items and restaurant meals in most of the centres surveyed. The components for housing and for clothing each moved up in eight cities, the former chiefly owing to higher prices for home furnishings and the latter mainly in response to increased prices for men's wear. The tobacco-and-alcohol index also moved up in eight cities as a change in package weight for cigarette tobacco resulted in an effective price rise in most cities across the country, and higher beer prices were recorded for the southern Ontario centres of Ottawa and Toronto. The transportation, the health-and-personal-care, and the recreation-and-reading components registered mixed movements across the country.

REGIONAL CITIES

The consumer price index for St. John's, Newfoundland increased by 0.4 per cent in May and stood 1.5 percent above its level of a year earlier.

The all-items index in Halifax increased by 0.6 per cent in May to reach a level 1.1 percent higher than it was in May 1970, while in Saint John, New Brunswick the index rose 0.3 per cent in May to reach a level 1.2 percent higher than its level a year earlier.

Higher food prices were chiefly responsible for a 0.4 percent increase in the Montreal all-items index. At its May 1971 level of 126.4, it stood 1.6 percent higher than it was a year earlier. In Ottawa the consumer price index increased by 0.6 per cent in the latest month to a level 2.4 percent above that of a year earlier, and in Toronto the all-items index increased by 0.7 per cent, which contrasts with an increase of 1.3 per cent in the 12 months ending May 1971. From April to May, the Winnipeg consumer price index rose by 0.4 per cent to reach a level 0.5 per cent higher than that of a year earlier.

In Saskatoon-Regina, the index increased by 0.4 per cent in May to reach a level 0.6 percent higher than it was in May 1970; the index for Edmonton-Calgary moved up by 0.2 per cent in May to reach a level 2.3 percent higher than the May 1970 level, while in Vancouver the index rose by 0.2 per cent since the previous month. At its May level of 126.4, it was 2.4 percent above its level of 12 months ago.