

RETAIL SALES: Total retail sales in the third quarter this year were below the record level established in the second quarter but eight per cent above the value for the third quarter of 1951, with instalment sales -- continuing more moderately the sharp gain of 77 per cent in the second quarter -- showing a rise of 59 per cent, charge sales up 5.6 per cent, and cash sales 3.6 per cent over last year.

Total value of sales for the quarter is estimated at \$2,870,500,000 as compared to \$2,951,700,000 in the second quarter and \$2,654,400,000 for the July-September period last year. Instalment sales increased to \$314,000,000 compared to \$197,400,000 in the corresponding 1951 quarter, charge sales to \$566,500,000 as against \$536,500,000, and cash sales to \$1,990,000,000 from \$1,920,500,000.

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DR. AULT ADVISER TO ISRAEL: It was announced on January 5 that Dr. O.E. Ault, Director of Personnel Selection for the Civil Service Commission, has been appointed as Adviser to the Government of Israel on questions connected with the organization of that country's civil service and on the establishment of a training centre for public employees. Dr. Ault's services have been made available by the Government of Canada at the request of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration. Dr. Ault left for Israel on December 30.

Since joining the Civil Service Commission, Dr. Ault has taken a leading part in the development of personnel selection procedures and in the establishment of the Staff Training Division. During the past year, he has been on leave of absence to attend the Imperial Defence College in London. Prior to joining the Civil Service Commission, Dr. Ault had a distinguished career in educational work.

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11 TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES: The largest shipment of Army medical supplies to leave the country since the end of the Second World War left Ottawa recently on its way to Europe. More than 11 tons of medical supplies were shipped from 26 Central Ordnance Depot here to Zweibrucken, Germany, where the R.C.A.F. is setting up a 35-bed hospital.

Months were required for the collecting of the materials which included every medical supply necessary for the setting up of the hospital. An X-ray machine, medical library and a complete operating room were among 1,500 items sent.

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Canada had 57,996.6 miles of railway track in 1950.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY: Progress of the Trans-Canada Highway was generally well maintained in 1952, the Minister of Resources and Development, Mr. Robert H. Winters, said on January 6 as work on the nation's longest highway entered a fourth construction year.

"In spite of heavy pressures on available supplies of labour and building materials caused by another record year of industrial expansion" the Minister said, "construction and planning have moved ahead steadily in the nine participating provinces. Claims submitted to date and paid by the federal Government for work done have reached the amount of \$24,466,885.27 as compared to \$11,090,614.80 on the same date a year ago.

The total commitments for work undertaken by the Provinces with the approval of the federal Government to the end of 1952 has increased from \$57,304,713.26 to \$91,481,879.98, or by more than half again as much as last year's total".

Sections of the highway have now been completed in almost all provinces.

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FISHERIES FORECASTING: Canada's fisheries scientists hope soon to be able to tell the commercial fishermen well in advance whether fishing will be good in any given year and where the best catches may be found. By studying changes in climate and fisheries, they are attempting to predict future trends and in certain cases they have had real success. Such prediction is of considerable economic importance since much of the instability which has characterized the fishing industry in the past has been attributed to the uncertainties of catches.

Progress made to date was reported on December 5 by Dr. W.R. Martin, a senior biologist of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. Dr. Martin has conducted intensive studies on the Canadian Atlantic deep-sea fisheries and presented a paper at a meeting of the Committee on Biological Investigations, being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Board in Ottawa.

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OIL USE JUMPS: Deliveries of heavy and medium fuel oils, heavy and light furnace oils, and diesel fuel to Canadian users in 1951 amounted to 2,286,638,000 imperial gallons, 17 per cent above the preceding year's total of 1,944,251,000, according to reports submitted by refiners, dealers and large consumers of petroleum fuels.

Deliveries for use in the heating of homes and buildings rose to 742,942,000 gallons from 594,436,000 in 1950, while the amount supplied to railways climbed to 317,588,000 gallons from 250,770,000. Deliveries for use in industrial plants as fuel or material increased to 617,390,000 gallons from 495,015,000.