

road, a group of children appeared who fought over possession of the empty beer cans. These have a ready market all over the country, fetching about 2½ cents Canadian per tin. They are flattened out and used for a variety of purposes, from making toys to providing roofs and sidings for buildings.

Rising Standard of Living

"After almost 40 years of occupation by Japan and a bitter three-year struggle against a Communist onslaught from the North, Korea is beginning to pick up steam on its road to higher living standards for its people. Although the Korean economy is not yet in the 'take-off' stage, the results of postwar effort are finally beginning to have some effect. In the past ten years the GNP has risen 62 per cent, industrial production 251 per cent, hydro-electric power output 46 per cent, thermal-electric power 1,341 per cent, and exports 391 per cent. The number of schools now stands at 6,984, up 29 per cent over ten years earlier. Student registration is up 75 per cent at 5,929,000. Countless other developments bear witness to national recovery. Many of these appear insignificant in themselves but, in the aggregate, they contribute to national recovery. For example, the Korean War resulted in the destruction of almost every mature tree in the path of the Communist invaders from the 38th Parallel to the Pusan Perimeter. In addition to the timber resources thus destroyed, the whole character of the country was altered — erosion was speeded up, soil moisture retention was impaired, and irrigation water supplies threatened. However, a nation-wide reforestation programme is beginning to bear fruit, and hillsides which a few year ago were only rock and sand are now covered with conifers.

"Korea faces a difficult future, more because of the threat from the North than from anything else. If the country could be freed from the burden of maintaining a 600,000-man army in a state of continual readiness, resources could be devoted to more productive activities. Investment capital is needed if the nation's standards are to rise above what will always be a difficult agricultural economy. Industrialization has a future because the infrastructure is there (power, communications, etc.). However, as long as the country is militarily threatened, overseas capital will be hard to attract."