

system. The two dams will create a lake 135 miles long with an area of 116,000 acres and a shoreline some 500 miles long.

Dam construction will be carried out by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and is expected to take six to eight years to complete. But this is only part of the construction process. For the Province, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation will undertake the construction of the hydro plant. The first state, which will be capable of producing 150,000 kw of electrical energy, will be "on line" at the time the main dam is completed. All irrigation works are to be built under the supervision of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, with the first phase of some 50,000 acres to be completed about the time the reservoir is filled. This is one-tenth of the total irrigation potential -- a potential which will probably take some forty years to realize.

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### ECONOMY STEADY

In the keynote speech to the annual conference of the Provincial Government's Trade and Industry Council at Montebello, Quebec, Mr. John H. English, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, said on September 29 that Canada's exports to date have shown strong resistance to the downward tendencies in world trade at large. There has been a more than two-fold increase in one of Canada's new exports - uranium. Aircraft and farm implements had been sold abroad in substantially larger amounts, while wheat sales were doing reasonably well and there had been increased shipments of beef cattle to the United States.

Mr. English referred to a number of other factors which were contributing to the generally firm trend of the domestic economy. Housing projects and the construction of public works, not only by the Federal Government but by the provinces and municipalities, had helped to counterbalance the decline in business investment. The rising trend of personal incomes and the sustained volume of consumer spending had been other steadying influences.

Commenting on the effect of the soft market situation in Canadian industry, Mr. English drew attention to the fact that shipments had not declined as much as imports. Evidently many Canadian industries were successfully weathering the competition from imports. Operations in the iron and steel industry, for instance, had at no time fallen below 72 per cent of capacity.

Looking to the future, Mr. English said that recovery in the United States would help to spark growth in other parts of the world. The construction programme and the strength of the consumer market pointed, he thought, to stronger growth trends in the Canadian economy, although there might not be outward evidence of improvement during the coming winter.

In dealing with Canada's foreign trade position, Mr. English pointed out that, although the merchandise deficit had declined from \$600 million in the first seven months of 1957 to \$200 million in the same period this year, the overall imbalance on current account remained substantial. However, he considered it was reasonable to expect this gap, amounting to \$600 million in the first half of 1958, would in the course of time be covered by additional production in Canada either for export or to replace goods now imported. He called on those connected with industrial development work to "make a more systematic and concerted effort to emphasize to foreign firms exporting to Canada the advantages of establishing manufacturing facilities in this country".

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### ARCHITECTURAL AWARD

The international architectural competition for the new Toronto City Hall has been won by the Finnish designer Viljo Rewell. By a majority vote of 3-2, the Finn will receive the first prize of \$25,000 and a 6 per cent commission which, it is estimated, will exceed \$1,000,000.

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### WORKING CONDITIONS

The Department of Labour's annual *Survey of Working Conditions* for 1958 shows progressively better conditions for employees in the manufacturing industries. The percentage of these employees who enjoy a five day week had risen by April 1958, to 88.3 per cent, as compared with 85.5 per cent in 1956, and 82.5 per cent in 1954.

The number of plant workers on a 40-hour week has steadily increased, reaching more than 70 per cent of workers covered by the survey. In 1954 only about half of the workers covered were on a 40-hour week.

A two week's holiday with pay now reaches 95 per cent of employees in the manufacturing industries. Although this percentage has not increased from the previous year, the eligibility requirements have been reduced. For example, the proportion of employees qualifying for this holiday after one year's service, or less, rose from under 18 per cent in 1957, to about 23 per cent in April 1958. There was also a reduction in the number of employees requiring three years' or more service to qualify.

Group life insurance was available to almost 90 per cent of manufacturing workers in 1958. This compared with 86.8 per cent in 1956 and 83.4 per cent in 1954. Pension plans were available to 63.6 per cent in 1958 compared with 64.7 per cent in 1956 and 59.3 per cent in 1954.

There was a noticeable increase in the provision of paid statutory holidays.