

By HAROLD MORRISON
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The tune of production and trade is the same in most parts of Canada: Prosperity.
Federal economists say 1956 is the most prosperous year in Canadian history. They predict another big year in 1957.
For most Canadians, prosperity has brought more jobs, higher pay and the chance to buy some of the things missed in earlier years.
The wheels of industry are spinning faster than ever. Corporation profits are reaching new highs. Spending is at a peak. National production say the economists will reach a record this year of \$29,500,000,000 much higher than expected, and about \$2,700,000,000 higher than 1955.

INFLATION QUESTION
The general building boom appeared to have no limits. It was this boom and the world demand for Canada's raw materials that sparked the brightness of prosperity. But at the same time they tinged the economy with the prospect of inflation.
Economists consider the inflation mild. Yet living costs, that held fairly steady for years, suddenly rose to a level all record. Earnings rose faster than costs, so that real purchasing power increased.

But for those living on small, fixed incomes, a rising economy spells trouble. The Bank of Canada rushed to tighten credit, to ease the demand for scarce goods. But it was a question of how far the bank could go without hindering the general boom and perhaps causing some unemployment.
Farmers, too, view the year in varying moods. The butter-surplus crisis seems to be over. Stocks are easing up as consumption keeps up with production. Meat prices generally are strong. Grain sales are higher. But the west still has great surpluses of unsold wheat.

World wheat markets appear to be improving, but there is strong competition for Canadian wheat-growers, particularly from the United States.
And in the Atlantic provinces the cry is heard that federal credit restrictions are hampering development of vital maritimes industry.
RECORD INVESTMENT
At the heels of prosperity is capital investment. Plans for 1956 involved a record \$8,000,000,000 worth of capital expansion — in new machinery, plants, bridges, roads, office buildings and houses, churches, schools and hospitals.
A program of this size would be \$1,700,000,000 greater than that of 1955.

Experts said the country could not accomplish all that in one year even with tremendous im-

ports of goods from the U.S. and a "D" sweat-out from James Coyne, governor of the Bank of Canada, urging industry to stretch out their plans, to hold off construction for a year or two to ease the strain on steel, cement and other essentials.
Now, however, it becomes evident that much of this work will be accomplished, perhaps about \$7,500,000,000 worth, and that there will be a big carryover of work for 1957. Trade Minister Howe predicts the 1957 capital investment program will be as large as 1956, perhaps larger.

BUILDING SHIPMENTS
Federal officials estimate that exports this year will reach a high of \$4,700,000,000, or \$400,000,000 higher than 1955. The main increase has been in essential raw materials and some finished goods such as newsprint, copper, nickel and aluminum, woodpulp, grains and chemicals.
It was this big market for essential products that helped spark the economic expansion this year. Big portions of the expansion having export markets, such as paper, metals, minerals and chemicals.

Far less spectacular were the expansion plans of industries which could depend mainly on the domestic market, such as textiles, rubber and clothing. The textile industry has recovered slightly from the decline of previous years, but synthetics are still finding markets tough. Rubber footwear producers complain of being undersold by low-priced imports from Hong Kong and Japan.
TRADE DEFICIT
The rise has been spectacular in imports, used mainly to help supply materials for Canada's expansion. Total imports for the year may rise to some \$5,700,000,000, a jump of \$1,000,000,000 from 1955.
This would mean a foreign trade deficit of about \$1,000,000,000, more than double the \$400,000,000 of last year. Such a deficit would add to Canada's foreign debt, of course.
But at home, the song of prosperity drowns out warnings about the future. The number of Canadians with jobs climbed to a record 5,800,000 in August, from 5,640,000 the previous August. The Labor Department estimated about 150,000 Canadians were looking for work, compared with 200,000 last year. There was a scarcity of engineers, plumbers, cement mixers and others employed in the construction trade.
Labor income has risen to a high of about \$14,200,000,000 from \$12,800,000,000 in 1955. Some of the earnings has gone into savings, some for automobiles, washing machines, television sets, new homes and furniture.

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NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

THE CALDER HALL ATOMIC POWER STATION
The world's first large-scale atomic power station, Calder Hall was opened in Cumberland County England, on October 17th, 1956. At the opening ceremonies, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II spoke of the scientific discoveries that brought a crisis in history and man kind to the threshold of a new age. The terrifying weapons of destruction could now be turned into a source of good to the community by Calder Hall's solution of that crisis. The Queen said: "Above all we have something to offer to the people of the undeveloped and less fortunate areas of the world, who are continuing to us for assistance and example, as they have done in the past. That to me is the real importance of today's ceremony."

Calder Hall, the first large-scale nuclear power station in the world, is but a forerunner of what is to come. The development of nuclear technology in countries that have made most progress in the development of atomic power, will soon follow with similar stations. When their programmes get under way, more of the conventional fuels (coal, oil and gas), will become available to countries that now are short of power and require them. At this stage, atomic power is not within the economic reach of many of the nations of the world.

RAPID PROGRESS
In Britain and a few other countries where research and development of atomic power have made great progress, even the rate of expansion is slow compared with the rate at which it could be used by industry, domestic service and for lighting. There are indications, however, that the development of this new power will come in much less time than the experts predicted last year. The British Government announced a ten-year programme of nuclear power development in February, 1955, that has already been outdistanced by progress made since then.

Sir Edwin Plowden, Chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, said this programme represented the maximum that could be achieved; but within a few months the Authority announced its intention to build three more stations like Calder Hall, at once; in addition to twelve that were to be built for the civil programme by the Central Electricity Authority.

Since then, Mr. R. A. Butler, Lord Privy Seal, has confirmed a much more ambitious scheme, made possible by the experience and technical progress already gained. The year 1970 was the date set in the original plan when all new power stations in Britain might be expected to be powered by atomic energy. At the opening of Calder Hall, Mr. Butler, speaking for Lord Salisbury, Minister responsible for atomic power, said: "It may well be that soon after 1965, electricity produced by atomic stations would perhaps be double the power now supplied by electric stations. This would replace from 50 to 100 million tons of coal, instead of the 40 million originally estimated in the plan."

TYPES OF STATIONS
The Calder Hall type and the three atomic stations that are so urgently needed, will be built on the same plan by the Atomic Energy Authority at once, as part of the military programme, and while they will provide a substantial amount of electricity for domestic use, they will be dual-purpose stations, and will also manufacture atomic explosive plutonium. This means that the reactors to obtain the largest yields of plutonium, will not generate as much electricity as they might otherwise do.

The type of the twelve stations to be built by the Central Electricity Authority for the civil programme, while making use of all the lessons learned when building Calder Hall, and from work elsewhere, will require the redesigning of the type of plant for commercial use. Different factors enter into this construction, and provision will be made to improve on the design as these stations are built. Each successive stage will be an advance on these previously built.

This work is starting with the building of two atomic stations in the civil programme at Bradwell in Essex County and Berkeley in Gloucestershire. They will be known as "Stage I" stations. At first it was thought they would not show any great advance over the Calder Hall station, a very modest conception. The engineers of the great British industrial construction firms are applying their traditional skills, and with the Atomic Energy Authority providing them with all possible help, very gratifying improvements have been achieved quickly.

There seems to be little doubt that the "Stage I" stations to be built in the civil programme will be twice as powerful and much more economical than had been originally expected; and that the ten stations to be built in each successive stage will show progressive improvement in power output and economical operation.

VITAL ARTERY
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