

N.B. Has Leadership In Capital Investment

HALIFAX (CP)—New capital investment in the Atlantic provinces will reach \$763,000,000 this year, a record high that will be \$53,000,000 above last year's record figure, the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council predicts in its April newsletter.

A seven per cent increase over new capital investment spending in 1962, the biggest increase is predicted for New Brunswick where capital spending plans represent an increase of 22 per cent over last year.

Substantial additions to the province's productive capacity are involved in the construction of the new Botolph Paper Cor-

The survey gathered information from individual companies and other private and public spending agencies regarding their investment plans.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

The newsletter says the preliminary estimate of actual 1963 investment in the Atlantic province is \$4,000,000 above the 1962 figure (\$706,000,000) and \$34,000,000 above last year's forecast of \$666,000,000.

Anticipated regional investment for 1964 is 83 per cent above the 1962 level of \$469,000,000.

Business investment, 50 per cent of the expected total, will again exceed spending for housing and social capital.

"Since 1957 business investment in the Atlantic provinces has risen more rapidly than housing and social capital. But this trend will not continue this year. Business investment planned for 1964 is \$416,000,000, four per cent more than the 1963 estimate, while housing and social capital investment is ex-

pected to increase 12 per cent to \$347,000,000," the letter said.

Of the five categories into which Atlantic provinces investment data are divided, manufacturing is expected to enjoy the fastest rate of increase over last year.

RECORD FORECAST

New manufacturing facilities in the region are predicted to hit a record \$96,000,000 or 31 per cent higher than last year.

The APEC newsletter says housing and social capital should increase by \$27,000,000 to a record \$347,000,000. All four provinces are expected to share in the regional increase, with New Brunswick and Newfoundland having the major shares.

Business capital expenditure is expected to reach a record \$416,000,000, four per cent above last year.

A decline of 7.4 per cent, or \$11,000,000, is forecast for investment in primary and construction industries.

Atlantic provinces' multi-plan a 3.3 per cent increase in total capital outlay which will reach a new high of \$119,000,000. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia show increases in this category while Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island will have decreases.

Investment planned by firms engaged in trade, finance and commercial services totals \$65,000,000, no change from last year.

39 Scholars Given Grants

OTTAWA (CP)—The Canada Council today announced the names of 39 scholars who will receive short-term grants worth from \$300 to \$1,200 for summer studies in Canada and abroad.

The recipients, mostly on the staff of Canadian universities, are among 57 who will share \$80,000 in research grants from the council.

Those announced today are in

the fields of languages and literature. The others will be announced later.

The recipients in the Atlantic provinces are: N. Edward Wilkins, St. John's; Robert M. Dawson, Halifax.

FOG DELAYS SHIPPING

PORT COLBORNE, Ont. (CP)—Fog stopped shipping traffic in the Welland Canal for 14 hours Monday night and Tuesday morning. With the canal plagued with upbound traffic after the resumption, there were eight ships waiting to go up the canal and another eight anchored here waiting to go down.



DEMONSTRATORS CLOSE EXHIBIT

Demonstrators from CORE, a civil rights group, block an exhibit in the Port Colborne at the New York World's Fair Wednesday. The demonstration caused Ford to close the exhibit to the public when the sit-ins refused to leave. (AP Wirephoto)

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A FAMOUS NAME SINCE 1881

Quebec-Born Engineers Fashion Thriving Business

MONTRÉAL (CP)—Two French-Canadian engineers have moulded a unique idea into a thriving firm in the busy construction industry. And, in a that year, \$60,000 in 1962 and

the company estimates that for the 1963 fiscal year ending July 31 sales will total at least \$1,000,000.

The company describes itself as "inventors and manufacturers of equipment for fully automated cement block plants," about 90 per cent of its production is exported, mostly to the United States and Europe.

The description gives the impression—an erroneous one—of a limited field. However, a company spokesman estimated there are about 6,000 cement block plants in North America alone.

Engineers Pierre Lafocette and Pierre Gagnon, both Montreal-born, started in 1959 with the invention of an automatic cuber, a piece of equipment that enables individual blocks to be stacked up in an interlocking pattern on pallets for easy transportation or storage.

START PRODUCTION

With the formation of Paco, the two inventors started production of a machine that eliminated older forms of baking bricks, such as a huge oven with a door on top.

"The piece of equipment is called the rotoclave. In simplest terms, it works this way: The bricks are automatically put in a huge, doughnut-shaped boat which floats in an underwater tank. The boat revolves in hot water and the heat from the water bakes—or cures—the blocks in the approximately 11 hours it takes for one revolution.

There is no competition in that no other firm produces the same equipment as the two French-Canadians invented, the spokesman said.

Essentially, Paco manufactures three pieces of equipment, with ancillary machinery. They are the rotoclave, the cuber, and a device that loads and unloads the rotoclave automatically.

On the 1962 sales of \$460,000, the company had earnings of about \$50,000, or nine cents for each of its 350,000 unlisted common shares.

FULLY AUTOMATED

An example of recent business was the equipment of what Paco calls "the world's first fully automated cement block plant, operated by one supervisor," for a firm at Rochester, N.Y.

Other recent sales included one worth \$120,000 to Paco, in French Canada, for what Paco calls the first totally automated cement block plant in Europe.

The company's work at automation in the industry is proceeding even further. Mr. Lafocette, president and Mr. Gagnon, vice-president, now are working on a scheme, said to be already feasible, to operate an entire production line from a console.

Eventually Paco hopes to branch into fields other than construction, working on the theory that the principles it has evolved may be applicable to other industries.

PREHISTORIC CAVE

TOULOUSE (AP)—A prehistoric cave adorned with drawings of mammoths, antelopes, bison and a deer wounded by an arrow has been discovered in southwest France. Archeologist Louis Morso says the large underground grotto probably dates from a herbivore age.

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