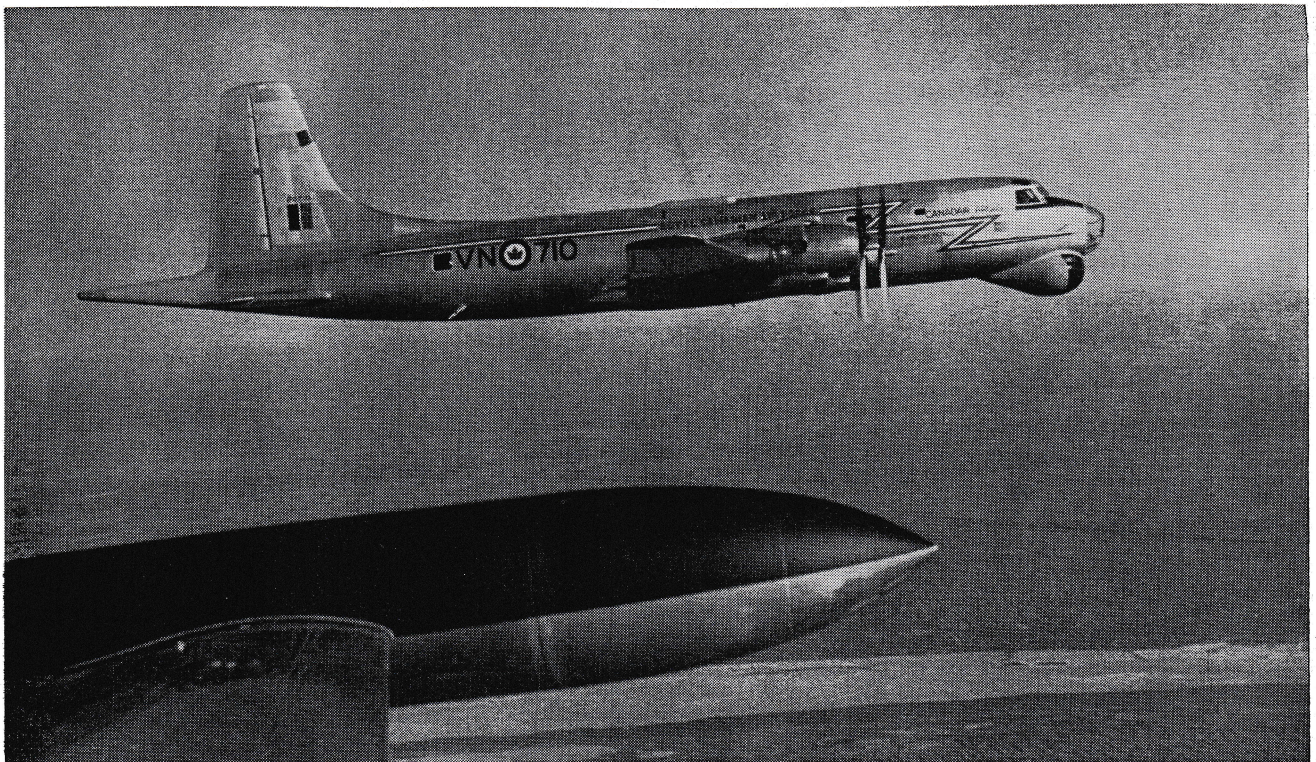


aviation news digest



AIRBORNE. Three years' work on the biggest aircraft ever built in Canada reaches fruition. The CP-107 Argus takes the air over Montreal. Prominent in this nose-up view of the RCAF's new maritime reconnaissance aircraft is the bulbous radome beneath the nose. The scorpion tail is also a feature of this business-like looking profile.

Production Figures

Canadian aircraft and parts production during 1955 was evaluated in a recent Dominion Bureau of Statistics bulletin. Total factory value of production during the year was \$354,315,000 an increase of 3.3 per cent over the total of \$343,011,000 for 1954 but still well off, 17 percent, the industry's peak of \$426,982,000 on record for 1944. The number of establishments in the industry rose from 47 in 1954 to 52 in 1955, but total number of employees was down to 33,036 from 35,095; salaries and wages dropped to \$130,269,000 went down to 33,036, from 35,095; salaries and wages dropped to \$130,269,000 from \$135,863,000; and cost of materials was \$140,831,000 compared with \$158,893,000.

The value of aircraft completed during the year was also off compared to 1954, the figures being \$108,408,000 as against \$186,934,000. But in aircraft under construction, \$46,074,000 compared with \$35,724,000, and parts made including development on aircraft and engines, \$194,878,000 as against \$167,353,000, the 1955 totals were a gain.

RCAF Crash Tenders

New type crash tenders for the RCAF are being built in the U. K. Contract, placed with Pyrene Co. Ltd., of London, England, and Toronto, is worth \$1,500,000. Built on an Alvis chassis and powered by a Rolls Royce engine, the vehicle can project foam at over 5,000 gallons a minute. It has four-wheel steering and is designed to cope with rough or boggy ground.

Simulator for CAE

A \$225,000 expansion program at Canadian Aviation Electronics Ltd. in Montreal involves purchase of an electronic computer from Electronics Associates Inc. The firm is setting up a computer centre to support its own development and research program as well as to offer such services to other manufacturers on a custom basis. Another phase of the expansion program calls for setting up of a precision gear cutting facility. Both additions to the present establishment are expected to be available for use this summer.

Orenda Reduces Staff

The production work force in the overhaul and repair department at Orenda Engines Ltd. has been reduced by about 225 workers. Company spokesmen said that increase in the service life of the Orenda engines which power CF-100s and F-86 Sabres has reduced the anticipated work load of the department. Orenda's work force will remain at about the 5,000 mark.

Float Builders

Exclusive Canadian manufacturing rights for Pee-Kay aircraft floats has been acquired by Superior Airways Ltd., Fort William, Ont. Agreement was signed with Thomas Kellner, of International Falls, Minn., founder of Pee-Kay Aircraft Products. First run of 10 sets of model 1,500 floats is in production at Fort William.

A.V. Roe Buys Algoma?

Reports persisted at press time that A. V. Roe Canada Ltd. was heading a group which would gain control of the \$200,000,000 Algoma Steel Corp. mine and mill empire. Word was that a pending deal would see A. V. Roe purchase upward of \$90,000,000 in Algoma stock. A. V. Roe associates in the deal were said to be McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd. and Mannesman Tube Co. Ltd. Company officials had no comment on the rumors.

CF-100 Flights Curbed

Operation of RCAF CF-100s was restricted "essential minimums" for a short period early last month after what the Air Force described as pilot evidence of control stiffness under certain conditions of flight. Technicians from Avro Aircraft Ltd. and the RCAF traced the source to a universal bearing. Accessibility of the offending part was said to have been one factor which lengthened the period during which CF-100 flights were held to the essential required for air defense while the necessary modifications were made.

New Repair Facility

A new repair facility has been set up by Measurement Engineering Ltd., at Arnprior, Ont., for the products of Keithley Instrument Inc., Cleveland, Ohio. Technical personnel are to be trained at the Keithley Instrument laboratories.