

Employment increased seasonally between June 1 and July 1 in trade and in finance, insurance and real estate. The increases indicated by the preliminary indexes for public utilities and service were less than seasonal.

Employment for men at July 1 this year was 5 per cent lower than at July 1 last year, while that for women was 2 per cent lower. The percentage of women in the work force has declined in recent months, but this is a normal seasonal occurrence. Women formed 22.6 per cent of the work force at July 1 this year which is higher than those for the same dates in all other years since 1946.

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### PARLIAMENTARY OBSERVERS

The Department of External Affairs announced September 9 that Mr. Maurice Allard, M.P., Mr. W. Heward Grafftey, M.P., Progressive Conservative members of Parliament for Sherbrooke and Bromemissisquoi constituencies, and Mr. M.A. Hardie, M.P., Liberal member for MacKenzie River, will serve as Parliamentary Observers on the Canadian Delegation to the Thirteenth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, for the first half of the session.

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### FEDERAL HOUSING LOAN

A Federal Government loan of \$65,000 has been approved for the construction of a 26-unit, low-rental housing project for elderly persons in Victoria, British Columbia, it was announced September 4 by Mr. Howard C. Green, Minister responsible for the operations of the Federal housing agency, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The loan, which is being provided under the limited-dividend section of the National Housing Act, 1954, will be made to the Victoria Senior Citizens Housing Society, a company sponsored by a local group of citizens interested in housing for the aged. A Provincial grant of \$35,000 has been approved for the project.

Situated in the area between Styles Street and Sunnyside Avenue immediately north of Craigflower Avenue, the project will comprise 26 bachelor apartments. Monthly rental and maximum annual income of tenant families at initial occupancy will be \$28.25 and \$1,455, respectively.

Section 16 of the National Housing Act provides for loans by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to limited-dividend housing companies undertaking the construction of low-rental housing projects. The loan may be up to 90 per cent of the lending value of the project and dividends of the company are limited to five per cent per annum, or less, of the paid up share capital.

### MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION

Output of motion pictures of five minutes duration or longer by private companies and by government agencies in 1957 consisted of 2 theatrical features (1 in 1956), 60 theatrical shorts (39), 499 television films (378), and 363 other non-theatrical films (355).

Some 1,844 television commercials were produced in the year (2,153 in 1956), 737 theatre trailers, newsclips and advertising films, (840), 214 newsreel stories for theatres (268), 105 newsreel stories for TV (560), 23 silent filmstrips (91), and 21 sound filmstrips -- with record (28).

Private industry and government agencies in 1957 printed 43,433,729 feet of 16mm and 27,-232,612 feet of 35mm in black and white. Some 5,565,520 feet of 16mm and 77,695 feet of 35mm were printed in colour.

There were 58 private firms (including laboratories with no motion picture production) in the Canadian industry in 1957 compared to 59 in 1956. They employed 1,216 persons (1,127 a year earlier), paid out \$2,758,560 in salaries and wages (\$2,483,910) and had a production value of \$4,471,710 (\$3,726,557).

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### AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES

Average weekly wages, hourly earnings and hours of work in manufacturing were lower at July 1 than at June 1 according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Average weekly wages dropped to \$67.51 from \$68.05 a month earlier, average hourly earnings to 166.7¢ from 167.2¢, and average hours to 40.5 from 40.7. A year ago, weekly wages averaged \$65.37, hourly earnings 161.0¢ and the work-week 40.6 hours.

In durable goods manufacturing average hourly earnings at July 1 fell to 179.6¢ from 180.3¢ at June 1 and average weekly wages to \$72.92 from \$74.10, partly due to less overtime worked in automotive and agricultural plants. Lower earnings in primary iron and steel mills, where rates had been above the general average at June 1 due to premium payments for work performed on the Victoria Day holiday, also contributed to the decline in hourly and weekly earnings. In non-durable goods manufacturing, average weekly wages edged up to \$61.94 from \$61.90, average hourly earnings to 153.7¢ from 153.6¢, while the work-week was unchanged at 40.3 hours.

Hours worked at premium rates on St. Jean Baptiste Day in Quebec were partly responsible for the rise in average weekly wages in mining to \$81.20 at July 1 from \$80.02 a month earlier and hourly earnings to 195.2¢ from 194.7¢. Average weekly wages rose in electric and motor transportation to \$74.47 from \$73.67, but fell in construction to \$73.15 from \$73.54 and in service to \$38.07 from \$38.41.