

CANADA-JAMAICA TAX PACT

Finance Minister E.J. Benson has announced that Canada and Jamaica will negotiate a limited income tax agreement, which will be confined to taxes imposed on dividends, branch profits and undistributed earnings.

Negotiations with Jamaica for a comprehensive income tax agreement began shortly after the 1966 Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference. They were postponed after the report of the Royal Commission on Taxation was made public early in 1967, in accordance with the Canadian Government's decision not to enter into new or revised comprehensive income tax agreements until the program for tax reform had been further advanced. The proposed limited agreement would be designed to take into account changes being made in the Jamaican law imposing taxes on company profits and distributions.

FILM CO-OPERATIVE GRANT

The newly-formed Canadian Film Co-operative has received a grant of \$3,000 from the Canada Council to help finance the making of prints for distribution of the work of independent Canadian film-makers.

Member groups of the Co-operative are the Inter-media Film Co-op of Vancouver, the Canadian Film-makers Distribution Center of Toronto, and the Co-opérative des Cinéastes Indépendants of Montreal. The London Film Co-operative is an affiliate member.

The major aim of the Co-operative is to provide non-commercial Canadian film-makers with reliable and effective distribution for their films. It is in the process of setting up offices in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, where films will be stored, booked and cared for.

CANADIAN AND U.S. WAGES

According to a study recently released by the Canada Department of Labour, entitled *Wages in Canada And The United States: An Analytical Comparison*, the percentage difference between real personal income in Canada and in the United States has declined slightly throughout the postwar years - that is, after allowance has been made for price increases in both countries. Whereas in the immediate postwar years the U.S. figure was 35 to 40 percent higher than the Canadian, the difference in recent years has been closer to 30 per cent.

In domestic dollars, U.S. labour income has generally exceeded its Canadian counterpart by 25 to 30 per cent. In the manufacturing field, however, this differential has narrowed.

Comparing hourly wages for 15 groups of manufacturing industries for the years 1949 and 1965, two notable features emerge: in no instance was there an

increase in the U.S. margin over the comparable Canadian wage; and there was a wide variation, from one manufacturing industry to another, in the extent to which the gap was closed.

CARIBBEAN SEASONAL LABOUR

Labourers from the Caribbean will again come to Canada this summer to help Ontario farmers grow, harvest and can their fruits and vegetables. This seasonal program, which has been in effect since 1966 in the effort to overcome the shortages of Canadian workers at peak demand periods, applies to Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

The decision to repeat the program in 1970 was made after consultation with the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Manpower Committee, and industry representatives.

There will probably be a need for about the same number of labourers as last summer, when 1,449 Caribbean workers came to Ontario.

The period begins May 1 and ends November 15. Workers may be employed for a minimum of six weeks or for the duration of the program. Employers pay return fare, provide accommodation, and pay a wage rate of \$1.65 an hour, an increase of nine cents an hour over that paid in 1969. Since the cost of providing meals has increased, workers may be charged \$1.70 a day, an increase of ten cents a day over last year's amount.

The Department of Manpower and Immigration will co-operate with employers who, through their own arrangements, hire individual workers in other Commonwealth or French Caribbean territories, provided they meet the same terms as those stipulated for the organized movement.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

In February, there were 26,531 births registered in provincial offices in Canada compared to 27,119 in February last year. For the first two months of 1970, births recorded were 1.6 percent lower than in the same period of 1969. The birth rate for February was 16.3 per 1,000 population.

There were 8,710 marriages registered in provincial offices in February, compared to 8,228 in the corresponding month of 1969. The cumulative total for the first two months was 2.0 percent higher than in the same months of last year. The marriage rate for the month was 5.3 per 1,000 population.

The 14,184 deaths recorded in provincial offices during February, brought the total number registered for the first two months of 1970 to 29,190, an increase of 3.5 per cent from the 28,216 registrations for the corresponding period of last year. The death rate for the month was 8.7 per 1,000 population.