

PAYROLL PEAKS 1953: Industrial employment, payrolls and per capita weekly earning reached new high positions during 1953, according to the Bureau's annual review of employment and payrolls. The general employment index for 1953 stood at 113.4 as compared with 111.6 in 1952, payrolls at 151.5 as compared with 140.3, and average weekly wages and salaries at \$57.-30 as compared with \$54.13.

While fairly widely distributed increases were recorded in industrial employment during 1953, contractions were indicated in a larger number of areas and industries than in recently preceding years. The level of activity in the Maritimes and Quebec was lower than in 1952. The gains in most of the provinces showing expansion were moderate, with Alberta and Newfoundland showing the largest increases.

Three of the industrial divisions - forestry, mining and construction - reported curtailment in employment, the reduction in the latter taking place in road work. Several factors adversely affected the mining division, notably labour-management disputes in the gold fields of Ontario and Quebec. A substantial decline was indicated in logging operations, continuing the unfavourable movement in 1952. There was little general change in transportation, storage and communication and finance, insurance real estate during 1953. The trend in the remaining industrial divisions and in most of their component groups was moderately upward.

Manufacturing showed an increase of 3.7%, raising the index to an all-time high.

* * * *

FARM COSTS RISE: Both farm operating costs and farm living costs, as measured by the Bureau's price index numbers of commodities and services used by farmers, were slightly higher on average in Canada in August than April this year but were lower than in August last year.

Inclusive of farm living costs, the all-Canada composite price index for commodities and services used by farmers (based on 1935-39 equals 100) stood at 225.0 in August, up 0.2% from 224.5 in April and down 1.4% from 228.1 in August last year. Exclusive of living costs, the all-Canada composite index advanced 0.3% to 238.7 in August from 238.0 in April and declined 2.0% from 243.6 a year earlier.

The composite regional indexes for Eastern and Western Canada showed similar trends to the national indexes, both in comparisons with April and August last year, but with variations in the degree of change.

Farm wage rates registered a moderate seasonal advance from April to August but remained below last year's August levels.

* * * *

From 1939 to 1952 factory shipments in Alberta rose by 493% as compared with an increase of 389% for Canada as a whole.

PIPED OIL RISE: Canada had 3,794 miles of oil pipe line at the end of last year, 1,294 miles or 52% more than at the close of 1952, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The number of pumping stations was increased by 12 to 45 during the year, and the flow of oil was stepped up to 151,653,187 barrels from 108,-818,688 in 1952.

The opening of the 718-mile Trans Mountain pipe line across the Rockies from Edmonton to Vancouver brought British Columbia into the pipe line picture with 464 miles of line at the end of 1953. Alberta lines increased by 385 miles to 1,317 during the year, Saskatchewan lines by 96 miles to 592, Manitoba lines by 138 miles to 416, and Ontario lines by 211 miles to 801. Quebec mileage was unchanged from 1952 at 204, but the capacities of both the Montreal and the Trans-Northern lines were increased during the year.

Total capital of incorporated pipe line companies was more than doubled last year to \$283,304,085 from \$126,867,214 in 1952, and investment in property, plant and equipment increased to \$243,819,010 from \$114,129,951. Operating revenues rose 35% to \$27,076,790 from \$20,064,187, and operating expenses increased to \$15,278,923 from \$10,283,467. Operating income advanced 21% to \$11,797,867 from \$9,780,720, but lower tax payments increased net income 72% to \$5,866,036 from \$3,403,949.

* * * *

SEA-FISH CATCH UP: Canada's sea-fishermen landed 10.3% more fish this August and the catch was worth 20.7% more than in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Landings weighed in at 261,453,000 pounds as compared with 236,-962,000, and the value was \$13,824,000 as compared with \$11,453,000. In the January-August period landings of sea-fish rose to 1,251,657,000 pounds from 1,101,000,000 and the value climbed to \$56,419,000 from \$55,479,000.

* * * *

WHEAT SUPPLIES: Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on September 22 totalled 341,974,000 bushels, moderately below September 15 stocks of 349,907,000 bushels, but up 13.8% from last year's 300,499,000 bushels. Overseas export clearances during the week ending September 22 jumped to 6,455,000 bushels from 2,-694,000 a year earlier, but cumulative clearances from August 1 to September 22 were down to 34,415,000 bushels from 38,157,000.

* * * *

The consumer price index declined 0.2% from 117.0 to 116.8 between August 2 and September 1. Foods moved down 0.5% from 114.4 to 113.8.

* * * *

Coastwise cargo unloaded at Canadian ports last year totalled 32,467,500 tons, 1,587,600 or 5% more than in the preceding year.