

NORTHERN STUDY: The Alberta provincial government has appointed a special three-man commission to study the development potential of Alberta's northland.

The commission includes, as chairman, J.C. MacGregor, chairman of the Alberta Power Commission; Roy C. Marler, Bremner, past president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, and J.O. Patterson, retired Grande Prairie businessman.

All sections of the province north of the 55th parallel will be included in the field of investigation. The parallel is about 100 miles north of Edmonton, running from the B.C. border south of Grande Prairie, just north of Athabasca and through Lac la Biche to the Saskatchewan boundary.

The commission has been asked to determine the extent and location of natural resources in the area, population trends and likely areas of population concentration, agricultural and industrial opportunity in the area, transportation and communication requirements, electrical power resources and requirements, market trends in respect to resources, as well as methods to assist general development.

Provision has been made for the Northern Development Commission to employ such consultant services as they may deem necessary. It has also been granted power to summon witnesses to give information on oath, orally or in writing, and produce documents required by the Commission.

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WHEAT EXPORTS DOWN: Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat in the first week of this crop year amounted to 2,870,000 bushels, sharply lower than the year-earlier total of 7,493,000 bushels, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Barley clearances were also substantially lower at 33,000 bushels versus 552,000, but oats climbed to 85,000 bushels from 5,000 and flaxseed to 327,000 bushels from 63,000.

Prairie farmers marketed 456,000 bushels of wheat in the week compared to 86,000 a year ago, 120,000 bushels of barley versus 28,000, and 34,000 bushels of flaxseed against 2,000. Visible supplies of wheat in store or in transit in Canada totalled 407,471,000 bushels at August 7 compared to 401,176,000 a week earlier and 364,322,000 a year earlier.

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EMPLOYMENT STEADY: An estimated 5,949,000 workers in Canada had jobs at July 20, 1957, the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics announced August 21. This represents increase of 115,000 from the previous month and 160,000 from a year earlier. The labour force increased by about the same amount, and totalled 6,112,000 at July 20. As a result, the number of persons without jobs and seeking work at 163,000 was virtually unchanged from a month earlier, although it was

still about 61,000 higher than a year earlier. The number of registrations for employment at National Employment Service offices was 257,000 at July 18, some 14,000 fewer than a month earlier, but 78,000 more than a year before.

The increase in the labour force from June to July was slightly less this year than last, but the increase in employment was substantially smaller. The usual decline in the number of persons without jobs and seeking work, therefore, did not occur during the month. Non-agricultural jobs increased by 9,000 from the month before, compared with an increase of 49,000 in the same month last year; agricultural jobs increased by 106,000 during the month compared with 93,000 last year.

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PROVINCES SPEND MORE: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released two publications dealing with revenue and expenditure of provincial governments.

The *Summary of Estimates*, the first analysis for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958, shows that record expenditures of \$2,005 million are expected to be made in the current fiscal year. Revenues of the ten provinces are estimated at \$1,942 million - also an all-time high. These totals were determined by analysis of the published estimates and budget speeches of the provinces.

The chief sources of provincial revenue for 1957-58 are estimated to be: taxes, \$913 million; the new federal-provincial tax-sharing arrangements, \$345 million; privileges, licences and permits, \$468 million; and liquor profits, \$150 million. Main expenditures are: transportation and communications (chiefly roads), \$585 million; health, \$302 million; social welfare, \$159 million; education, \$436 million; and natural resources and primary industries, \$152 million. Each of these items is up appreciably from previous years.

The second analysis of revenue and expenditure, (*Preliminary*), is for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1957. It incorporates information available at or near the close of the fiscal year. The preliminary total of net general revenue is \$1,745 million - approximately \$200 million higher than presented in the *Summary of Estimates* for the same fiscal period as published a year ago. Total expenditures, exclusive of debt retirement, are expected to be \$1,889 million - approximately \$100 million more than originally budgeted for by the provinces.

The chief sources of provincial revenue for 1956-57 (preliminary) are: taxes, \$717 million; federal tax rental agreements, \$366 million; privileges, licences and permits, \$451 million; and liquor profits, \$144 million. Main expenditures are: transportation and communications, \$560 million; health, \$270 million; social welfare, \$144 million; education, \$364 million; natural resources and primary industries, \$133 million.