

JOB HOLDERS INCREASE

An estimated 5,687,000 persons had jobs at May 18, an increase of 245,000 from the previous month and 188,000 from the preceding year according to the joint news release by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. At the same date, 194,000 persons were without jobs and seeking work, approximately 112,000 fewer than in the previous month, 29,000 more than in May 1956, but more than 19,000 fewer than in May 1955. Registrations for employment at NES offices at May 30 had decreased by 212,000 from April 25, and totalled about 307,000.

Canada's civilian labour force on May 18 was larger at 5,881,000 versus 5,748,000 a month earlier and 5,664,000 a year ago. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work and the number of registrations for employment both represented a slightly larger proportion of the total labour force this May than a year earlier.

The increase in employment from April to May was sufficiently large to absorb both the marked expansion in the labour force that occurred during the month and a substantial number of persons who in April were without jobs and seeking work. The number of farm

jobs increased slightly more from April to May this year than a year earlier; non-farm jobs increased substantially more. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work declined more from April to May this year than last. This was a reversal of the situation that had prevailed in most of the recent months. The decline in the number of unplaced applicants was about the same from April to May this year as last.

Persons working full-time -- 35 hours or more in the survey week -- totalled 5,142,000 versus 3,134,000 a month earlier and 4,997,000 a year ago, and persons at work less than 35 hours numbered 429,000 versus 2,166,000 at mid-April and 390,000 at the same time last year. The unusually large number working less than 35 hours at mid-April was due to the occurrence of Good Friday in the survey week.

Number of persons with jobs but not at work totalled 116,000 versus 142,000 a month earlier and 112,000 a year ago. Number off work as a result of illness totalled 53,000 compared with 56,000 a month earlier and 54,000 a year earlier, and those on vacation numbered 33,000 versus 32,000 a month earlier and 30,000 at the same time last year.

MORE COAL: Reversing the downward trend in the preceding five years, Canadian coal production rose 0.7 percent in 1956 to 14,915,610 tons from 14,818,880 tons in 1955, and the value 1.9 percent to \$95,349,763 from \$93,579,471, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics preliminary annual report. Landed imports, including briquettes, climbed nearly 19 percent to 23,120,300 tons from 19,490,013, but exports rose less than 1 percent to 594,166 tons from 592,782.

Output from Alberta mines fell in the year to 4,328,787 tons from 4,455,279 in the preceding year. This decline was offset by increases in Nova Scotia to 5,775,025 tons from 5,731,026, New Brunswick to 988,266 from 877,838, Saskatchewan to 2,341,641 from 2,293,816, and British Columbia and Yukon to 1,481,891 from 1,460,921. Production comprised bituminous at 10,309,587 tons versus 10,184,857 in 1955, sub-bituminous at 2,264,382 tons versus 2,340,207, and lignite at 2,341,641 tons versus 2,293,816.

LOAN FROM NATIONAL GALLERY: The walls of major units' messes in 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade Group have been brightened with scenes of action of the Canadian Army in the Second World War.

The National Gallery in Ottawa has loaned Canada's NATO Brigade 28 paintings by seven war artists who saw action on all fronts with the Army.

The units benefitting from the action of the National Gallery are the 4th Regiment; Royal Canadian Horse Artillery; 1st Battalion; the Royal Canadian Regiment; 1st Battalion; Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry; 1st Battalion; Le Royal 22e Regiment; and Headquarters, 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade.

Each unit has been loaned paintings that deal mainly with its particular arm of the service. The 4th Regiment, RCHA, for example has five paintings, all depicting the artillery in various actions of the Second World War.

When the 2nd Brigade rotates to Canada this fall, the paintings will be loaned to the incoming formation, the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group.

HISTORIC NAMES: The romantic history of the beginnings of Canada in New France three centuries ago has given the Canadian National Railways glamorous names for the banquet halls and other public rooms in its new Queen Elizabeth Hotel, now under construction and due to open for its first convention next year.

Some of the names are closely associated with the United States, too. Marquette and Jolliet were the discoverers of the Mississippi. Du Lhut left his name, with a slight change of spelling, in Minnesota. The names of these three have been perpetuated in three banquet rooms on the convention floor of the hotel. Another has been called after Sir Alexander MacKenzie, the first explorer to go overland across Canada to the Pacific.