

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: Employment in the eight major industrial groups showed a further slight decline at the beginning of November, but there was a small advance in the expenditures in weekly salaries and wages as compared with October 1, according to data received from 20,712 representative employers. The reduction in the working force again took place among male employees, whose numbers fell 0.3 per cent, while that of women rose 0.5 per cent in the month. The difference in the trends was due to the changes in the industrial distribution of employment.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the general index number of employment in the eight leading industries at the beginning of November was 201.9 as compared with 202.2 at October 1, and 203.6 at November 1, 1948. Except for November 1, 1948, the latest index is the highest in the record of 29 years. Although the November 1, 1949 figure was 0.8 per cent below that indicated 12 months earlier, there was an increase of three per cent in the index of payrolls, which reached a new all-time maximum.

The co-operating employers reported a rise of 0.4 per cent in their disbursements in weekly salaries and wages at November 1 as compared with October 1. Further upward adjustments in wage rates in several industries contributed to the higher expenditures in which another factor was longer working hours in some industries. The indicated weekly earnings averaged \$43.78 at November 1 as compared with \$43.55 at October 1, and \$42.15 at November 1, 1948.

1949 FARM INCOME \$2,409,165,000: Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products in 1949 amounted to \$2,409,165,000, according to an advance preliminary estimate by the Bureau of Statistics. This figure is slightly below the 1948 peak of \$2,449,900,000, but substantially above the 1947 total of \$1,962,276,000.

The Bureau points out that Canadian Wheat Board participation payments to western producers on previous years' crops were substantially larger in 1948 and 1949 than in any year up to that time. Since August 1, 1949, western producers of coarse grains have received only an initial payment per bushel as provided under the terms of the compulsory coarse grain marketing scheme which entitles them to share in any surpluses accumulated by the Canadian Wheat Board through the sale of these grains.

In addition to the above totals, supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act in 1949 totalled \$17,628,000 as compared with \$20,746,000 in the preceding year, and \$11,577,000 in 1947.

The advance estimates of cash income indicate lower returns in 1949 than in 1948 in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ontario had the largest total of \$641,350,000

compared with \$668,353,000, followed by Saskatchewan at \$540,638,000 compared with \$520,563,000, Alberta at \$452,384,000 compared with \$448,997,000 and Quebec \$343,604,000 compared with \$352,153,000.

\$83,283,400 FOR MOVIES: Canadians spent a record total of \$83,283,400 on motion picture theatre entertainment in 1948, an increase of six per cent over the preceding year's total of \$78,476,800. Of the gross receipts in 1948, \$13,626,000 was paid to federal and provincial Governments in taxes as compared with \$15,819,000 in 1947. Net receipts were up to \$69,657,200 from \$62,865,300, or by 11 per cent. There were 222,459,200 paid admissions during the year, a gain of one per cent.

Expenditures on this form of entertainment in 1948 amounted to \$6.50 per person compared with \$6.30 in 1947 and \$5.01 in 1942.

CHANGE ARMY'S AGE LIMIT: A change in the age limits of applicants for enlistment in the Canadian Army Active Force has been announced by Army Headquarters.

Candidates for enlistment, regardless of whether or not they are skilled tradesmen, now must be between the ages of 17 and 29 years. Until recently age limits were from 17 to 25 for non-tradesmen and 17 to 35 for tradesmen.

Special cases of older applicants possessing exceptionally high instructional or trades qualifications or experience will be referred to Army Headquarters by personnel depots for a decision. But unless Headquarters O.K.'s their application, they will not be enlisted.

Candidates who have not reached their 18th birthday must produce the written consent of parent or guardian before becoming eligible.

SEEK SETTLEMENTS OF CLAIMS. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on January 9 that his Parliamentary Assistant, Mr. James Sinclair, M.P., and Mr. C.L. Read, an officer of the Department of Finance, were leaving at the end of this week on a trip to a number of European capitals, in order that they may assist in co-operation with the Ambassadors and other resident Canadian representatives, in the settlement of financial claims which Canada has outstanding against certain European countries. These claims arise from the furnishing of supplies to the civil population of these countries by the armed forces during the conduct of military operations on the continent of Europe. Canada shared with the United States and the United Kingdom in the financing of these supplies and in the settlement of the claims arising out of them.

Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Read are planning to proceed first to Brussels, then to Luxembourg, and later to Paris, Rome, Belgrade, possibly Athens, Copenhagen, and Oslo.