

MAY PRICE INDEX

Canada's consumer price index (1949=100) was slightly lower at the beginning of May than at the beginning of April, having moved from 127.5 to 127.4, a decline of 0.1 per cent. For May 1959, the index stood at 125.6. Decreases in the food and household-operation indexes outweighed increases in the indexes for shelter and "other commodities and services", while the clothing index remained unchanged.

The food component decreased 0.6 per cent, from 120.9 to 120.2, as egg prices dropped 6¢ a dozen and lower prices were reported for oranges and orange juice, tomatoes and bananas. Potato prices continued to rise, and beef, after declining for several months, rose during April and May. Pork prices remained steady.

The shelter index rose slightly from 143.3 to 143.5, an increase of 0.1 per cent. The rent component was unchanged but home-ownership was higher, largely because property insurance, priced in May, was above last year's level. The clothing index was unchanged at 110.8, as only minor price changes occurred on a scatter of clothing items.

A drop of 0.3 per cent in the household-operation index, from 123.5 to 123.1, was due largely to a seasonal decline in coal prices and sale prices on textiles. Some utensils and household supplies were higher. Insurance rates on household effects, priced in May, were also higher.

An increase of 0.4 per cent in "other commodities and services", from 137.1 to 137.6, reflected higher automobile-insurance rates as well as price increases for theatre admissions, men's haircuts, women's hairdressing and local transportation, the latter price change occurring in Toronto and Hamilton. New passenger cars showed seasonal price declines, and gasoline prices were slightly lower.

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UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Claimants for unemployment insurance benefits numbered 714,900 at April 29, a drop of 13 per cent from 823,000 at March 31 but up 17 per cent from 610,800 at April 30, 1959, according to advance figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Seasonal benefit claimants included in these totals numbered 228,600 at April 29, 248,500 at March 31 and 228,400 at April 30 last year. The number of claimants for regular benefits at April 29 declined by some 88,000 from a month earlier but increased by 104,000 from a year ago.

Initial and renewal claims filed during April totalled 214,600, compared to 283,500 in March and 206,900 in April last year. The month-to-month decline in initial claims was 26 per cent against 20 per cent for renewals. The failure rate of initial claims processed

in April was 10.1 per cent, compared to 7.3 per cent in March and 10.0 per cent in April 1959.

The average weekly number of beneficiaries was estimated at 732,900 for April, 733,000 for March and 640,200 for April last year. Benefit payments in April amounted to \$61.8 million against \$74.8 million in the preceding month and \$60.0 million a year ago. The average weekly payment was \$22.18 in April, \$22.20 in March and \$21.29 in April 1959.

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PATTERSON BUST FOR STRATFORD

In recognition of his contribution to the Canadian theatre, and to Stratford in particular, a group of friends of Tom Patterson, founder and planning consultant of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, have banded together to present a bust of Mr. Patterson to the Festival Theatre.

The bust, the work of Alan H. Jarvis, Canadian sculptor and former director of the National Gallery, is expected to be finished early in the summer and will at that time be placed in the foyer of the Theatre.

With the approval of the Festival Governors, a "Tom Patterson Recognition Fund" committee has been set up with Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of Health and Welfare, as honorary chairman. Friends of Mr. Patterson, who conceived the original idea of the Festival, are being solicited for donations not greater than \$10. These are being received by the Tom Patterson Fund, British Mortgage & Trust Co., Stratford, Ontario.

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ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

A poster proclaiming Ontario's human-rights code, stressing equality of rights for all regardless of colour, religion or background, has been published by the Ontario Anti-Discrimination Commission and is now available to organizations and institutions throughout the province for public display.

The inscription on the poster reads as follows:

"It is public policy in Ontario that all its citizens are born free and equal in dignity and rights without regard to race, creed, color, nationality, ancestry or place of origin. Through Ontario's human-rights code, the Legislature has laid the ground where people of goodwill can come together and solve their difficulties.

The poster carries the signatures of Premier Leslie M. Frost and Labour Minister Charles Daley.

Mr. Daley also announces that copies of a six-page pamphlet on Labour Law printed in Italian are being distributed to New Canadians of Italian origin.