

Although it was difficult to obtain adequate statistics on the unemployment of workers aged 65 and over, the study concludes that it is probable that the average duration of unemployment tends to be longer for the older age groups.

In the area of income maintenance for the population of 65 and over, the report indicates that the problem would be eased if it were possible to extend the employment of people in this age group without greatly depressing wages. It states that the extension of employment would depend on the availability for employment of a fairly large proportion of the group aged 65 and over who are not now in the labour force, and that the statistics presented on the incidence of disabilities in Canada's older population suggest that the addition of workers from this source might be quite modest in size.

Commenting on workers aged 45 to 64, the report states that an examination of age ceilings on "help wanted" advertisements in newspapers is sufficient to indicate that the worker in this age group, who for some reason is obliged to seek employment, is likely to find his opportunities considerably limited in some occupations.

Despite the progressive narrowing of job opportunities with age, the proportion of persons in this age group who are labour force members does not fall much below the maximum levels for men until about the age of 60. The proportion of women aged 45 to 64 who are labour force members has been continually increasing, and is now almost up to the level of women aged 25 to 44.

The report points out that the incidence of unemployment among workers of both sexes between 45 and 65 is among the lowest of all age groups. Further, the median income of this age group does not appear to be significantly lower than that of younger people. However, older workers experience more difficulty in regaining employment once unemployed, and many workers in their 40's and 50's have passed the age of maximum earnings, although this tends to be offset on the average by other workers whose earnings increase until retirement. The report says that for many workers, family and other responsibilities reach a peak in this age group and that this situation makes the problem for those whose income is falling particularly critical.

CANADIAN SHIPS FOR WEST INDIES

The Prime Minister, Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, announced recently that construction of two passenger-cargo ships for operation in The West Indies would be proceeded with at an early date.

The Prime Minister said that these vessels would be built for The West Indies under the

Canadian-West Indies Aid Programme, which had been announced at the time of the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference held in Montreal in September, 1958.

The two ships will eventually cost a total of approximately \$6 million. They have been designed to specifications set forth by the Government of The West Indies. They will have an over-all length of 298 feet, a beam of 51.6 feet, a loaded draught of 15'6" and will have a speed of 12.5 knots.

Each vessel will have accommodation for 50 cabin passengers and 200 deck passengers. The cargo capacity is 80,000 cubic feet, and they will each be manned by a crew of 49. Diesel engines will be installed for the propulsion of the ships.

This is the first capital project to be undertaken by Canada under the West Indies Aid Programme, and represents a substantial part of the \$10 million contribution that is being made by Canada over a five-year period to the economic development of the Federation. These Canadian vessels will help strengthen and extend the inter-island shipping service that was inaugurated by the Federation Government in 1958 and which is an important factor in the economic progress of The West Indies.

VICEROY PATRONIZES DDF

Governor-General Georges P. Vanier has consented to become the patron of the Dominion Drama Festival.

Said Lieut.-Colonel Yves Bourassa, Festival president:

"His Excellency is carrying on a 26-year tradition established in 1933 when the Dominion Drama Festival was founded by the Earl of Bessborough, the then Governor-General, who became its patron. Major-General Vanier has always been a strong supporter of the arts in Canada, and has taken a keen interest in the theatre.

"His appointment as patron of the Dominion Drama Festival will contribute much to the development of both the English and French-speaking theatre in Canada.

"We are indeed honoured to have the Governor-General as our patron, succeeding the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, who played such an important part in fostering the interests of theatre in Canada during the years in which he served in this high office."

NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

The Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker, announced on November 13 that His Excellency the Governor-General had approved the issuance of a proclamation summoning Parliament to meet on Thursday, January 14, 1960