

from last year is the result of lower yields, since the estimated acreage for 1958 at 311,000 acres is only slightly below last year's 312,100 acres. The expected average yield per acre is currently placed at 121.4 cwt. per acre as against 141.2 in 1957.

Realization of the 1958 yield and production forecasts will depend on the existence of favourable weather conditions throughout the remainder of the growing and harvesting season. However, harvesting started early in many parts of the country this year, particularly in the Prairie Provinces and Ontario. Good progress has been made in these areas to date and except for some northern regions most crops should not be vulnerable to early frost damage.

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B. W. I. BROADENING CANADIAN TIES

The West Indies plans to expand its trade and diplomatic representation in Canada, it was announced September 9.

C. Rex Stollmeyer, British West Indian Commissioner in Canada, said his office would soon have a Commercial Secretary, a Secretary for Student Affairs and Secretary for Public Affairs and Tourism.

His present nine-member staff is to be expanded to 13 this year.

Mr. Stollmeyer made the announcement following his appointment as Commissioner for the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras. He has been Trade Commissioner for the West Indies in Canada since 1934, but following the creation of the Caribbean Federation his job was expanded to include wider fields.

Functions of the Commissioner, whose office is in Montreal, cover the entire range of representation except Defense and External Affairs which are still dealt with by Britain.

"Trade and investment between Canada and the West Indies are a natural," said Mr. Stollmeyer. "West Indians hope for increased trade and greater Canadian investment as well as a greater flow of Canadian tourists."

He said Canada is playing an important role in the new West Indian Federation by providing technical training in such fields as fisheries, forestry and housing. Canada also is building a ship for use in inter-island trade.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT UP

Canada's industrial employment index (1949-100) rose 2 per cent between June 1 and July 1 this year to 121.1 from 118.7 according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The seasonally-adjusted figure showed no appreciable change. There was a small reduction in average weekly wages and salaries over the month, but the industrial composite index of payrolls rose slightly.

During the first half of 1958, the general level of industrial employment showed little variation other than that resulting from seasonal factors. The seasonally-adjusted industrial composite index, which fell from 124 in the summer of 1957 to 118 at the beginning of 1958, remained close to the 118 level from January 1 to July 1. Between May 1 and July 1, when employment normally increases more rapidly than at other times of the year, there was a rise of nearly 6 per cent. This increase was slightly larger than those recorded for the corresponding periods in 1949 and 1954, other recent years of stable employment. However, the larger percentage rise in 1958 may reflect increased seasonality in employment rather than an underlying situation stronger than that existing in the earlier periods. The amplitude of seasonal fluctuations appears to have increased in recent years.

This year manufacturing employment changed less than usual between June 1 and July 1. Seasonal factors tend to bring declines in leather, clothing and transportation equipment between the two dates, but increases occurred for leather and clothing this year. On the other hand, although increases occurred in all other major industry groups in manufacturing, they were less than seasonal in most instances. Employment in forestry rose 27 per cent from June 1 to July 1. This increase and the increase from May 1 to June 1 were somewhat greater than those normally occurring in the spring months.

The construction situation was affected by further strike activity in British Columbia where employment in building and general engineering declined contra-seasonally. Employment in building and general engineering increased in all the remaining provinces except Prince Edward Island, with increases being less-than-seasonal. Employment in highways, bridges and street construction continued to run close to record levels for the time of year, although the preliminary index for July 1 this year was not as high as that for July 1, 1956.

The seasonally-adjusted index of employment for mining has tended to decline in recent months. In the metal mining group employment was 2.4 per cent higher at July 1 this year than last. The increase was caused by a doubling of employment in uranium mining. Employment in metal mining excluding uranium was down 11 per cent over the year. Uranium showed further gains from June 1 to July 1, while employment in other metal mining industries was virtually unchanged, although seasonal factors tend to bring increases between the two dates. The employment situation in the fuels and non-metals groups was also weak.

A strike in water transportation in British Columbia led to a decline in the Canada index for the industry, while in other sectors of transportation, storage and communication employment showed normal seasonal increases.