CANADIAN LABOUR FORCE

(C.W. B. August 1, 1962)

Employment rose by 197,000 in May and June, an unusually large increase for the month, according to the monthly joint press release by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics that contains advance figures from the June issue of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics report "The Labour Force". Unemployment on the other hand, fell by 35,000 to 301,000 in June, a smaller decline than usual for this time of year. Employment in June was 229,000 higher and unemployment 69,000 lower than a year earlier.

Changes in employment and unemployment in May and June were strongly affected by a very large influx of young people into the labour market. An estimated 95,000 teenagers - substantially more than in recent years - were added to the labour force as school terms were ending. About 70,000 found work, but 25,000 were not immediately absorbed into employment, thereby slowing down the decline in total unemployment.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment gains in May and June were general. Manufacturing showed the most marked improvement, the employment increase being much greater than seasonal. In all other industry groups, rising employment levels followed the usual seasonal patterns.

A rising trend in manufacturing has been an important feature in the employment upturn of the past year. In the second quarter of 1962 employment was, on average, 195,000 or 3.2 per cent, higher than a year earlier, with manufacturing accounting for 80,000 of the net advance. There was an increase of 68,000 in service; somewhat smaller gains occurred in construction and trade. Agricultural employment was 29,000 lower than the year before.

Employment gains in May and June were more than seasonal in Ontario and British Columbia. In other tegions, the advances were about normal for this time of year. In all regions, non-farm employment was substantially higher than a year earlier. Gains ranged from 3.5 per cent in Ontario to about 6.5 per cent in the Pacific region.

UNEMPLOYMENT

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Unemployment decreased by 35,000 to 301,000 in May and June. The decline was less than seasonal, mainly because of a large inflow of students into the labour market. The number unemployed in the 14-19 age group, which usually changes little at this time of year, increased by 25,000 during the month. Among those 20 years of age and over unemployment dropped by 60,000, somewhat less than usual for this time of year.

The increase in the number of students seeking work was reflected in a rise in short-term unemployment. The number unemployed for less than a month rose from 74,000 to 121,000 in May and June. The number unemployed for more than one month continued to fall during the month, and was down by one-third from a year earlier.

The unemployment total in June was 4.5 per cent of the labour force, as against 5.6 per cent a year earlier. Across the country, unemployment rates varied from 2.2 per cent in the Prairie region to 7.4 per cent in the Atlantic region. Unemployment declined most sharply over the year in British Columbia and Quebec.

NWT COUNCIL AT CAPE DORSET

Cape Dorset, a thriving Eskimo community on Dorset Island off the mainland of Foxe Peninsula, will be the meeting place of the summer session of the Council of the Northwest Territories, which opens on July 30.

Cape Dorset artists are widely known for their soapstone carvings and graphic art. The West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative is the biggest employer in a settlement made up principally of some 330 Eskimos.

The Council is expected to consider five new ordinances and 12 amendments to existing legislation. Commissioner Gordon Robertson will preside over the session.

CHOICE OF MACKENZIE CAPITAL

In addition to legislation, the Council will discuss the choice of capital for the proposed Mackenzie Territory. Briefs from Yellowknife, Inuvik and Fort Smith, and a report on the suitability of Fort Simpson, will be considered. About eight names, all Eskimo, will be studied for the massive Eastern Arctic region that lies east of the 105th meridian from about the centre of Saskatchewan's northern boundary to the Arctic Ocean.

A proposal to set up a Public Utility Board will be referred to the Council. Such a Board would be concerned primarily with power franchises and highway and trucking regulations. Around 4,000 motor vehicles are now in operation on territorial roads.

Cape Dorset lies some 1260 miles northwest of Montreal, and is known to the Eskimos as King-aik ("High Land"). It was named Cape Dorset in 1631 by Luke Foxe, one of the early explorers of Hudson Strait. The Hudson's Bay Company established the first settlement in 1913.

In addition to the Co-operative buildings and the Eskimo homes, Cape Dorset has a school, art centre, Hudson's Bay store, bakery, nursing station and the office of the Northern Affairs Area Administrator. The school, a one-room prefabricated building, has a regular enrolment of 57 pupils. Last year, a large boathouse was completed and a new community freezer for game (seal, walrus, wild fowl and fish) will be built during this year.

For about three months of the year Cape Dorset is cut off by freeze-up and break-up. The busy time comes in a brief period in the summer months when the harbour is clear of ice and ships and float-equipped planes bring in mail and supplies.

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SPANISH ENVOY INSTALLED

On July 19, His Excellency Felix Iturriaga y Codes, Marqués del Romeral, presented to the Governor-General his credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Spain to Canada. He was accompanied by the following members of his staff: Mr. José Maria Trias de Bes, Minister Counsellor; Colonel José Sanchiz, Marqués de Pescara, Military, Naval and Air Attaché; Mr. Manuel de La-Chica, Commercial Counsellor.

Marqués del Romeral entered the Spanish Foreign Service in 1922 and has served in Morocco, The Netherlands, India and Argentina. Since 1954 he has been the Director of the Consular Department of the Spanish Foreign Ministry.