

compared with 202.3 at July 1, and 200.5 at August 1 last year. The previous peak figure for midsummer was 200.9 at August 1, 1948. There was an increase of 1.1 per cent in the advance index number of payrolls as compared with July 1, bringing it to 7.2 per cent above the level indicated a year ago! Per capita weekly wages and salaries among leading firms in the eight major industrial divisions moved up to \$45.26 from \$45.13 at July 1, and \$43.01 at August 1, 1949.

Greater activity was reported in manufacturing, transportation, construction and certain other non-manufacturing industries as compared with July 1. Trade was generally quiet, small seasonal declines in employment being recorded in most provinces.

Regionally, employment showed gains over July 1 in all provinces except New Brunswick, where a decline of 3.9 per cent was recorded. The increases in the other provinces ranged from 0.2 per cent in Ontario and 0.8 per cent in Manitoba to 2.9 per cent in British Columbia and 4.3 per cent in Prince Edward Island.

In manufacturing, the advance index number of employment rose from 208.0 at July 1 to 209.3 at the first of August, which compares with 206.4 at August 1, 1949. The index number of payrolls in these industries increased by 0.7 per cent from July 1, and exceeded by 7.7 per cent the level of August 1, 1949. The advance figure of per capita weekly earnings of wage-earners and salaried employees on the staffs of leading factories at August 1 was \$46.78 as compared with \$46.73 at July 1, and \$44.04 at the beginning of August last year.

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**GRAIN MISSION FOR EUROPE:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced on September 29 that a three man grain mission would leave immediately to visit the United Kingdom and western European countries. The mission will call upon the grain trade, millers and government authorities with a view to facilitating the trade in Canadian wheat, grain and flour in that area. The mission is headed by Dr. C.F. Wilson, Director of the Wheat and Grain Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce. The other members are Mr. R.W. Milner, Commissioner of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada and Mr. J.B. Lawrie, Executive Assistant to the Canadian Wheat Board.

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**INSTALMENT SALES ADVANCE:** There was a further increase in the proportion of retail sales on the instalment basis during the second quarter this year, according to the quarterly survey of 16 major credit-dealing trades by the Bureau of Statistics. At the same time the ratio of cash sales was unchanged from the previous quarter, and charge sales fell off.

Continuing a steady upward movement from the second quarter last year, sales on the instalment basis rose to 9.3 per cent compared

with 9.2 per cent in the first quarter and 8.3 per cent in April-June, 1949. Cash sales accounted for 62.8 per cent of total sales in both the first and second quarters this year, and were down from 63.2 per cent in the second quarter last year. Charge sales were down to 27.9 per cent from 28 per cent in this year's first quarter and 28.5 per cent for the second quarter of 1949.

Instalment sales were up 18 per cent in volume during the April-June period this year over the same period of 1949, the index number, on the base 1941=100, rising to 180.9 from 153.5. The charge sales index for the combined 16 trades decreased from 203.8 to 202.8, and the cash sales index advanced from 216.7 to 218.0.

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**AUTO SHIPMENTS CONTINUE GAINS:** Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles during August were down sharply from June and July -- the peak months for this and recent years -- but were again higher than in the corresponding month of 1949, raising still further the record cumulative total for the year. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States increased over July and a year earlier, while sales of British-made vehicles were close to the average of the previous seven months.

The month's shipments of Canadian-made vehicles totalled 24,272 units as compared with 40,131 in July and 20,475 in August last year. The gain of 18.5 per cent over last year raised the cumulative total for the eight months ending August to 256,168 units as compared with 185,973 in the similar period of 1949.

Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States amounted to 1,613 units as against 448 in August last year and for the eight months totalled 13,438 compared with 7,428 in the 1949 period. Sales of British-made vehicles in the month numbered 6,108 units, according to preliminary figures, and in the eight months totalled 49,070 units. Comparative figures on sales of British-made vehicles last year are not available.

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**WHOLESALE PRICES AT NEW PEAK:** Continuing an unbroken series of monthly advances since the first of the year, wholesale prices in Canada reached another new peak in August, according to index numbers compiled by the Bureau of Statistics. The August index, on the base 1926 equals 100, stood at 168.5 as compared with 166.9 in July, and 155.4 in August last year. At the beginning of this year the index stood at 157.1.

Among a group of selected commodities, there were advances in wholesale prices between July and August ranging from 14.3 per cent for sheepskins to 50 per cent for tallow. Wholesale prices for raw rubber advanced 31.5 per cent, calfskins 28.6 per cent, raw sugar