

WAGES, SALARIES UP: Industrial employment, payrolls and average weekly wages and salaries rose to higher levels at the beginning of September as compared with a month and year earlier, according to the monthly employment and payrolls report, released Nov. 25 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The September 1 index of industrial employment, on the base, 1939=100, stood at 193.5 as compared with 192.4 for August 1, and 190.6 for September 1. The payrolls index was 475.3 as compared with 471.4 a month earlier, and 442.7 a year ago, while weekly wages and salaries averaged \$57.65 compared with \$57.52 at the beginning of August and \$54.55 at the same time last year.

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TV SALES ZOOM: Nearly five times as many television sets and over one-third more radios were sold by Canadian manufacturers in the first half of this year than in the same six months of 1952, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported. Radio sales were up to 301,652 from 218,452, and TV sales to 126,044 from 27,294. Almost as many TV sets were sold in the first half of 1953 as in the full year 1952, and the six-month sales were over 70 per cent greater than the aggregate sales of 1951, 1950 and 1949.

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BRIGADES IN GERMANY: The arrival in Soest, Germany last weekend of the 2nd Regiment, RCHA, brought to completion major movements involved in the rotation of Canada's infantry brigades in Germany. About 10,000 men have been involved in the exchange of the NATO formations and the movement from Hanover to new and permanent camps at the head of the Ruhr Valley, the Department of National Defence has announced.

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110 NEW VESSELS: One hundred and ten vessels destined for coastwise and foreign service were launched in Canada last year. Built in the shipyards of seven provinces, the new vessels had a total registered net tonnage of 61,721 tons.

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Sales of radio and music departments in Canadian department stores were 34.7% higher in the first three quarters of 1953.

\$3,992,100,000 INVENTORIES: Canadian manufacturers held \$3,992,100,000 worth of inventories at the end of September, \$10,500,000 worth less than a month earlier but \$277,500,000 worth more than on the same date last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported on December 2. The slight dip from the August value followed small increases in the months from May to August and January to March, and a drop in April. In index terms September inventories were 213.3 per cent of the average 1947 holdings as compared with 213.8 in August and 198.5 in September last year.

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PROVINCIAL DEBT: Net direct and indirect debt of the 10 provincial governments totalled \$3,145,044,000 or \$218.33 per Canadian at the close of March last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics disclosed on December 2 in its annual report on this aspect of provincial finances. This was an increase of \$279,622,000 or \$13.37 per capita since the Bureau's last report, which covered fiscal year ends nearest December 31, 1950 (in most cases, March 31, 1951).

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ARMS FOR ALLIES: A shipment of military equipment for the Azores Command of the Portuguese Army left two Maritime ports last week. The supplies are part of Canada's contribution under the Mutual Aid Agreement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. They include six breach-loading 9.2 inch guns and three 9.2 inch mountings; five generating engines; three 60-inch searchlights; one radar set and 501 cases of spare parts and ancillaries to supplement the above supplies.

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THRONE SPEECH DEBATE ENDS: Debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne ended in the House of Commons on December 3 and the way cleared for immediate consideration of Government legislation. Three proposed amendments from Opposition Parties were voted down during the three-week debate.

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Seven times as many seal skins were produced in 1951 as in 1950 by Canada's fish processing industry, the number jumping to 272,745 from 38,984.