

ADMISSION STANDARDS

Reports from the registrars of the 43 degree-granting universities and colleges already mentioned show that five raised their standards of admission in 1961.

One of these, the University of New Brunswick, made no change affecting students from its own province, but raised from 50 per cent to 60 per cent the average required of students from outside New Brunswick who seek entry at the senior matriculation level. The University of Manitoba now requires applicants in architecture and engineering to present senior matriculation standing with an average of at least 60 per cent; formerly, no required average was specified.

Assumption University of Windsor raised the required senior matriculation average in arts, science and business administration from 50 per cent to 60 per cent. Students entering any course at Carleton University, Ottawa, (arts, science, commerce or journalism) at the junior matriculation level were faced with the requirement of a 65 per cent rather than a 60 per cent average, and the required senior matriculation average, formerly unspecified, was set at 55 per cent. The Université de Sherbrooke raised its admission standards in arts, science, engineering, commerce and law.

\*\*\*

NEW POST OFFICES

The Minister of Public Works, Mr. David J. Walker, has announced that a total of 64 small post-office buildings are being erected across Canada this winter. This programme is now well under way, and is part of the Government's regular accommodation requirements. Construction was deferred, wherever possible, during the summer, so that they might form part of the programme for winter work.

Mr. Walker pointed out that the policy of erecting small standard-plan post offices during the winter months had been started during 1958-59, and that, with the completion of this winter's programme, a total of 259 such structures would have been built under this scheme in the smaller communities of Canada.

Each building provides between 600 and 800 square feet of working space and costs not more than \$25,000, including land. In all cases, tenders have been called locally to permit the use of local workers who may be unemployed during the winter months.

TENDERS AND CONTRACTS

This winter's programme is proceeding at a satisfactory pace and, wherever possible, the work will be completed by March 31. To date, tenders have been called or contracts awarded for 56 post offices. In a few of the communities listed, buildings may not be erected as planned, but such instances are expected to be extremely rare.

The construction of standard-plan post offices constitutes only a part of the full winter works programme carried out by the Department of Public Works. For a number of years it has been standard practice to defer certain types of work from the sum-

mer and to let the contracts at such a time as to provide the maximum amount of winter work. In addition, building contracts, both large and small, continue to carry a clause specifying that work must not be stopped during the winter months without the express permission of the Department.

EMPLOYMENT & WEEKLY EARNINGS

Canada's index of industrial employment (1949=100) declined less than seasonally in October and November 1961 to 121.6 from 122.9, while average weekly wages and salaries decreased to \$78.84 from \$79.02. In November 1960, the employment index stood at 119.7, and average weekly wages and salaries at \$76.43.

All major industry divisions except trade and finance, insurance and real estate reported lower levels of employment in November as compared to October. The changes in most divisions, excluding forestry, manufacturing and construction, differed only slightly from normal seasonal movements. The main modifying influences in the general decline were smaller-than-usual decreases in durable and non-durable manufacturing and construction. Largely as a result of the moderate declines in these components, the seasonally-adjusted composite employment index rose to 120.0 in November from 119.5 in October.

Contra-seasonal increases in transportation equipment and electrical apparatus and supplies were important in softening the decline in durables. In the non-durables group, clothing, textile, leather and rubber products continued as a main source of strength, although a smaller-than-usual reduction in food processing and a larger-than-usual increase in tobacco products were also important in moderating the decline. Employment in forestry returned to a more normal level in November, following a very large increase in October.

\*\*\*

ORCHESTRA GETS GRANT

The first transatlantic tour of a Canadian symphony orchestra will take place this spring with the assistance of the Canada Council. A special grant of \$25,000 has been made to the Montreal Symphony Orchestra to enable it to visit the U.S.S.R. Performances under the orchestra's permanent conductor, Zubin Mehta, will also be given in Vienna, Paris and London. The featured soloist in these concerts will be the young Canadian pianist, Ronald Turini. The tour was arranged last year on the invitation of the Cultural Ministry of the U.S.S.R. as an informal exchange following the visit to Canada of the Red Army Dancers, Singers and Musicians. It is being made possible by grants from the Canada Council, the Province of Quebec, the City of Montreal, and by the co-operation of Trans-Canada Air Lines.

"The first European tour of a Canadian symphony orchestra marks an important milestone in the development of the artistic life of this country", said Dr. A.W. Trueman, Director of the Canada Council. "The invitation extended to the Montreal Sym-

(Over)