

REHABILITATION AGREEMENTS WITH 3 PROVINCES:

Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Labour, announced on October 30 that agreements for the coordination of rehabilitation services for disabled persons had been signed by the Federal Government and the governments of Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and Manitoba. He congratulated the three provinces on being the first to sign the agreements, and said he was extremely pleased that another important step had been taken toward improving the treatment and services for handicapped people on a nation-wide basis. He said there were important reserves of unused manpower among Canada's handicapped people, and that the nation could no longer afford the luxury of maintaining in idleness those handicapped men and women who were willing and able to work.

The agreements provided that the Federal Government would contribute an amount not exceeding \$15,000 to each of the three provinces during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1954. During the ensuing fiscal years, it was agreed that the amount to be contributed would not exceed whatever amount was authorized by the Governor-in-Council.

The new agreements, which would remain in effect until March 31, 1958, stipulated that each of the three provinces should contribute an amount of money at least equal to that contributed by the Federal Government. The Federal action would make available funds which would assist each province in carrying out its agreement to appoint a provincial coordinator who would be responsible for the coordination of the rehabilitation services within the province. His duties would include: membership on an interdepartmental rehabilitation committee to be established by the province, the establishment of local committees within the various communities to draw together all those bodies interested in the welfare of disabled people, and the organization of a case-finding and case-referral system in the province.

For its part, the Federal Government agreed that the national coordinator would be available to assist the province in drawing up rehabilitation plans, and that the National Employment Service would be available for placing disabled workers in employment.

The three provincial governments and the Federal Government also agreed that the selection of disabled people who would be eligible for assistance under the agreements would be made without discrimination in regard to racial origin, colour, religious views, or political affiliations.

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An estimated 81,224 passenger cars and 35,153 commercial vehicles were withdrawn from use in Canada in 1952. The total of 112,377 is down from estimates of 127,443 for 1951 and 137,393 for 1950, but up sharply from 74,876 for 1949.

SECURITIES: The volume of trading in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries in August continued to be light although for the first time in five months a sales balance was recorded, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's sales balance amounted to \$1,600,000 in contrast to a purchase balance of \$4,000,000 in July.

The principal factor contributing to this change was the absence of any net repatriation of non-resident holdings of Government of Canada direct and guaranteed issues for the first month since March, 1951. In the intervening months, net repurchases of these issues, heavily concentrated in the 13 months ending October, 1952, and in May and June, 1953, totalled \$327,000,000. The small inflow of capital recorded in August was for the purchase of bonds; transactions in stocks were practically in balance.

Trade with the United States in August led to a purchase balance of \$1,600,000, while trade with the United Kingdom and other countries resulted in sales balances of \$900,000 and \$2,300,000 respectively. Transactions with the United Kingdom have led in the first eight months of the year to a capital inflow to Canada of \$13,000,000 contrasting with a small outflow during the whole of 1952.

Trade with other countries has also been significant and the inflow of \$15,800,000 to the end of August exceeds the inflow recorded in the 12 months of 1952. Transactions in Canadian bonds and stocks have both contributed to the sales balances with the overseas countries.

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MANUFACTURING WEEKLY EARNINGS: Average weekly earnings of Canadians employed in manufacturing reached a new peak of \$58.30 last year, 7.6 per cent better than the 1951 high of \$54.18 and more than 70 per cent above the 1946 average of \$34.25, according to the annual report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on earnings and hours of work in manufacturing.

The report, based on nation-wide surveys taken in the last week of October, places last year's increase in average weekly earnings in the durable goods industries at 8.0 per cent, the average advancing to \$63.20 from \$58.53 in 1951, and at 6.8 per cent in the non-durable goods industries, where the average rose to \$53.47 from \$50.05. Manufacturers of durable goods employed 50.1 per cent of all the wage-earners in manufacturing in 1952 as compared with 49.3 per cent in 1951, while manufacturers of non-durable goods employed 52.2 per cent of all the salaried employees as against 53.4 per cent in the preceding year.

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Last year Canada produced about 66% of the world's output of asbestos.