

(C.W.B. September 16, 1949)

Of the total labour force, an estimated 5,018,000 were employed in June this year as against 4,948,000 last year and 4,821,000 in 1947, making an increase in the number of persons at work of 70,000 and 197,000 in a year and two years, respectively. The estimated number unemployed this year was moderately higher at 103,000 -- about two per cent of the total labour force -- as compared with 82,000 in 1948 and 91,000 in 1947.

These data are obtained by the Bureau from a sample survey of households, carried out in June, which covers a scientifically selected sample of the civilian population exclusive of those living in institutions. For purposes of the survey, all persons who are employed or looking for work during the survey week are included in the labour force. In addition to those actually at work, persons with jobs from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, labour disputes or layoff of less than 30 days, or who were waiting to report to a job, are counted as employed. The unemployed are those who were looking for work but did not work in the survey period.

The gain of 70,000 between June this year and June, 1948, in the number of persons employed was due entirely to a rise in non-agricultural employment, which advanced by 133,000 from 3,762,000 to 3,895,000. Employment in agriculture in the week ending June 4 this year stood at 1,123,000, down 63,000 from the same period last year. Regionally, the decrease in agricultural employment was most pronounced in the Prairie Provinces and Ontario, where drought conditions hampered operations in the Spring. On the other hand, non-agricultural employment rose in all regions.

ECONOMY APPEARS STEADY: Canada's economy appears to be maintaining a reasonably steady position; economic indicators revealing little change -- allowing for usual seasonal fluctuations -- from month to month or from the same periods of the previous year, states the current issue of the Canadian Statistical Review in its review of economic conditions.

From March to July, the Review points out, the Bureau's index of production, on the base 1935-39 equals 100, has fluctuated within a range of a single point, standing at 185.9 for the latter month. The index of industrial employment stood at 198.3 for July compared with 194.5 for June and 198.0 for July last year. During the last several months no perceptible change has been observed in the ratio between factory inventories and shipments, indicating that goods are moving into the hands of consumers in a steady flow.

WELCOME TO MARQUETTE COMMITTEE: The Department of External Affairs released on September 11 a message of welcome from the Prime Minister of Canada to the President of the Marquette Committee, Senator Louis Temynck. The message which was delivered Saturday afternoon by the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Fournier, reads as follows:

"Sir:

"I have great pleasure in extending, on behalf of the Government of Canada and in my own name, a heartfelt welcome to your delegation which has come to Canada to commemorate with us the tercentenary of the heroic deeds of Father Marquette and of the holy Canadian martyrs.

"Those pioneers of western civilization in North America remain for us most valued examples whose undaunted courage and broad vision stand as a continuing inspiration to the whole Canadian nation.

"As we recall the discoveries made by Father Marquette, a son of old France, who was assisted by Louis Joliet, a son of New France, we are particularly touched by the gesture of your delegation in associating its tribute with our own and giving new evidence of the close fellowship which exists between France and Canada.

"I feel sure that your pilgrimage to Canada can only strengthen our close ties with France and will enable you to realize how much at one we are in our ideals.

"Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration."

Louis S. St. Laurent

The Marquette Committee consists of a group of some forty French delegates who are making a pilgrimage to Canada to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Mississippi by Father Marquette and of the founding of the Jesuit Missions of Huronia in the vicinity of Midland, Ontario. This group includes several members of the French Senate and Chambre des Députés, as well as members of French universities and the press. The French Foreign Minister, Mr. Robert Schuman, proposes to join this group at the celebrations to be held in Midland, Ontario, on September 16 and 17. A Canadian reception committee is composed of Senator Thomas Vien, T. Taggart Smyth, Father Pouliot S.J., Gerald Ryan, and others.

GRANTS TO HOSPITALS: Hospitals in St. Catharines, Southampton, Warton, Burk's Falls, Atikokan and Englehart, Ont., have just been awarded grants totalling \$89,500 to help meet their building costs, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin announced on September 13.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN SUNDAY: Battle of Britain Sunday is to be observed on Sunday, September 18 and RCAF units across Canada will hold special Church parades to commemorate the 9th Anniversary of the culmination of the historic air battle, it was announced on September 12 by Air Force Headquarters. Taking part in the ceremonies with regular force personnel, will be members of the RCAF Auxiliary and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

September 15 is generally accepted as the end of the critical period in the Battle of Britain, as on this date enemy losses in attacks on London rose to a peak, forcing a change in tactics by the Germans. From the second week in July, 1940, until the end of October, the Luftwaffe attempted to gain air supremacy over the British Isles.

First seeking to crush RAF fighter defences by heavy attacks on airfields, aircraft factories, harbours, shipping and radio-location factories, Goering's airmen then turned to London. Swarms of bombers and fighters smashed at the British capital in an attempt to bring the people to their knees. But the tireless efforts of the small band of RAF pilots in their Spitfires and Hurricanes dealt such stunning losses to the German attackers that Hitler was forced to ease his daylight aerial offence. Although night bombing continued, the Battle of Britain was won and the immediate threat of invasion removed.

The Battle of Britain marked the RCAF's baptism under fire as in August, 1940, a squadron of the RCAF for the first time took to the skies against the enemy, won its first victories and suffered its first casualties. Forty-seven Canadian officers and men--three of them with the RCAF and the others serving in the RAF--gave their lives in the Battle of Britain.

"MICMAC" COMMANDER: Lieut.-Cdr. Frederick C. Frewer, R.N., 29, of Toronto, for the past two years Executive Officer of the Canadian Services College, Royal Roads, B.C. has been appointed Commanding Officer of the Tribal class destroyer, H.M.C.S. "Micmac," it was announced on September 14 by Naval Headquarters.

NRC POSTDOCTORATE FELLOWSHIPS: The worldwide recognition attained by several groups working in the National Research Laboratories and the unique facilities of the National Research Council's Atomic Energy Project at Chalk River attracted about forty full-fledged scientists from Canada and abroad as post-doctorate research fellows for 1949-50.

Approximately thirty-one postdoctorate fellowships will be offered by the National Research Council for the year 1950-51, eighteen of which will be awarded in chemistry, three in atomic energy research, and about ten in physics.

The stipend is \$2820 per annum, tax free, and is supplemented by travel grants for successful candidates from abroad.

While appointments at Chalk River are restricted to Canadian citizens and British subjects, applicants of all nationalities are welcome in the Divisions of Chemistry and Physics.

The postdoctorate fellowship programme, instituted only a year ago, has already become an important factor in the advance of science in Canada. Formerly, Canadian holders of a science doctorate had to go abroad to round out their training, while now the cycle is often reversed when foreign scientists apply for postdoctorate fellowships to improve their own experience by association with scientific leaders on the staff of the National Research Council of Canada.

CORPS CONVENTIONS: Twelve corps and defence associations will hold their annual conventions within the next few months in various centres in eastern Canada. Membership of these associations includes Active and Reserve Force officers as well as many ex-members of the various corps who have maintained an active interest in their old outfits.

Corps Association conventions are as follows: Royal Canadian Dental Corps, Sept. 21, 23, 24 at Army Headquarters, Ottawa; Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Sept. 22, 23 at Vimy Barracks, Barriefield, Ont.; Royal Canadian Infantry Corps, Sept. 26, 27, 28, Seignior Club, Montebello, P.Q.; Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, Sept. 27 to Oct. 1 at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto; Royal Canadian Engineers, Oct. 7, 8 at Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa; Canadian Intelligency Corps, Oct. 15 (tentative) at Ottawa; Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps, Oct. 21, 22 at Ottawa; Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Oct. 22 at RCME School, Barriefield, Ont.; Royal Canadian Artillery, Oct. 28, 29 at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa.

The Defence Medical Association will hold its convention Oct. 28, 29 at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto and the Conference of Defence Associations will be Dec. 1, 2, 3 at Ottawa.

STORE SALES UP 7 PER CENT: Department store sales advanced seven per cent during the week ending September 3 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures issued by the Bureau of Statistics. All provinces shared in the rise except British Columbia and Alberta. Sales in Manitoba showed the largest gain of 14 per cent, followed by Quebec up 10 per cent, Ontario nine per cent, Saskatchewan seven per cent, and the Maritime Provinces six per cent. Sales in British Columbia and Alberta were down four per cent and three per cent, respectively.