

**INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT:** Industrial employment showed a further decline at the beginning of December, and the Bureau's index number fell 1.6% from November and 1.9% from December, 1952. With this exception, the December 1 index, which stood at 113.9, was the highest on record for the time of year. Following the seasonal pattern, the reduction in the month took place among men, whose numbers declined 2.3%, while that of women rose 0.5%. In the 12-month comparison there was an increase of 0.2% among women, but employment for men was lower by 2.4%.

Disbursements in weekly salaries and wages declined 1.6% from November but climbed to a new peak for December 1. The index of payrolls stood at 154.9 as compared with 157.4 a month earlier and 151.3 at December 1, 1952. Per capita weekly earnings, at \$58.19, established a new high, slightly exceeding the November 1, 1953, average of \$58.14, and rising 3.7% over the preceding year's December figure of \$56.12.

Industrially, employment showed widely-distributed contractions. Among the major industrial divisions, the losses as compared with November 1, ranged from 0.7% in public utility operation, to 6.5% in construction, in which the curtailment approximated that indicated 12 months earlier. There was a contra-seasonal decline of 2.8% in logging. The situation in mining continued to be affected by industrial disputes.

In manufacturing the reduction in the month was 1.9%. Employment fell to about the same extent in the durable and the non-durable categories, and in both groups was slightly below the December 1, 1952 level. Within these classes, the largest decreases were in transportation equipment and food processing. Employment in the transportation, storage and communication group diminished by 2.5%, exceeding the loss recorded at December 1 in recent years.

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**AID FOR REFUGEES:** Four thousand pounds of clothing and other relief supplies collected in Halifax for South Korean refugees have been turned over to the Korean Civil Assistance Command in Pusan by the Royal Canadian Navy.

The shipment is the first of an estimated eight tons of supplies - mostly clothing - collected under the auspices of the Halifax Junior Board of Trade and destined for distribution to South Korean refugees in the Pusan area.

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Production by establishments comprising the boilers and plate work industry in 1952 climbed to a new high annual value of \$90,428,000, 20% above the previous top value reached in 1951, according to the Bureau's annual report on the industry.

**GENERAL EMPLOYMENT SURVEY:** Employment declined and unemployment increased during January somewhat more than is usual for the month. As a result, the number of persons working full time dropped slightly below year-ago levels. Manufacturing employment continued to dip slightly below year-earlier levels, although relatively few industries have contributed appreciably to this drop. The easing of activity in manufacturing has been reflected in higher levels of unemployment this year, particularly in industrial centres. There has also been an increase in short-time employment in a number of industries.

Severe winter weather conditions, particularly in the western provinces, brought most outdoor activity such as construction, logging and sawmilling to a virtual standstill during the month. This resulted in much higher than usual lay-offs of workers in the areas affected by bad weather. Over one-third of all paid workers were in local labour markets classified as having substantial labour surpluses, compared to about one-quarter a year ago. This was largely the result of the settling of business activity in some manufacturing industries which coincided with heavy lay-offs in seasonal industries.

The civilian labour force, at 5,242,000 in the week ended January 23, 1954, was down from 5,275,000 in the week ended December 12, 1953, but up slightly compared with 5,210,000 recorded in the week ended January 24, 1953.

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**BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL:** L/Cpl. Paul Dugal of Quebec City, the man who set at rest the minds of numerous relatives and friends of soldiers listed as "missing" in Korea but who were actually prisoners-of-war, has been awarded the British Empire Medal by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The award was made in recognition of Dugal's outstanding work while a prisoner of war in Korea, Canadian Army Headquarters announced.

L/Cpl. Dugal, the first Canadian POW to be returned by the Communists, was released on April 21, 1953, after being a prisoner for nearly a year. During that time, he kept a diary with complete information on other Canadian prisoners of war, many of whom, up to that time, had been listed as "missing". He managed to retain the diary until his repatriation when he turned it over to the Canadian authorities. The information recorded was completely accurate and, not only was it of great assistance to the authorities, but it also gave assurance to relatives and friends of other prisoners that their men were alive and in custody.

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Fur dressing industry treated 12,085,066 skins in 1952, a jump of 2,316,450 or 23% over 1951.