

CANADIAN LABOUR IN 1962

In his year-end message, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Michael Starr, observed that employment during 1962 had outstripped the growth of the labour force. Total employment in the third quarter of the year had been 2.8 per cent higher than a year earlier and 4 per cent higher for the non-farm industries.

Unemployment had continued to decline. In the third quarter of 1962 unemployment rates had been lower than in 1961 in all industry groups and in all occupations.

The gross national product was reported to be running 11.1 per cent above that of the previous year—\$65.00 higher per capita in "constant dollars" than in 1957. Industrial production continued the uninterrupted climb that had begun early in 1961.

Income, said Mr. Starr, had kept pace. Personal income was 7 per cent higher than a year earlier, the increase being reflected in retail sales, which in the first eight months of the year had been 5 per cent higher in value than in the corresponding period of 1961.

CONSTRUCTION

"Outlays for non-residential construction are expected to be the highest ever recorded, outlays for the expansion and modernization of our productive facilities are also up, and housing starts are higher than the year before," the Minister went on. All these things, he said, added up to a picture of "sound, steady progress in which most Canadians have shared".

Mr. Starr predicted that the current Municipal Winter Works Incentive Programme would provide more than 150,000 jobs directly and an equal number indirectly. The "Do-It-Now" campaign was once more in full swing and other measures to create more employment were being carried forward.

The message continued as follows:

"There are longer-range challenges which must be faced now if we are to advance economically and socially.

"We are taking steps to upgrade the skills and education of Canadian workers to fit them for the more complex and demanding jobs of modern industry. We are planning to anticipate the effect on the working man and woman of automation and other technological advances, to prevent dislocation and hardship. We are finding ways of increasing productivity

to meet increasing competition. It is obvious that all these things are tied closely together.

"To provide facilities for more technical and vocational education and training, a vast federal-provincial programme of school construction has been going on for the past two years. In that time, 462 projects have been approved, 224 of them for completely new schools, which will train an additional 130,000 young Canadians. For this urgent building programme, we raised the federal contribution to 75 per cent of provincial costs.

A PIONEER MEASURE

"A new bill is before Parliament, a measure to deal with the adverse effects of automation and industrial changes on Canadian workers. This is a pioneer measure, the first of its kind in the world. It is designed to deal in a positive way with some of the human problems of these changes, by providing government assistance, financial and technical, to labour and management to help them plan ahead to meet these problems as they arise in industry. In those cases where displacement cannot be avoided, workers will be helped to move to other jobs with a minimum of loss and hardship, should they wish to do so.

"We are working with labour and management to find ways of increasing this country's productivity, on the national level through the National Productivity Council and on the local level through labour-management seminars and meetings and through the promotion of labour-management committees in industry.

"The new bill before Parliament will depend on the effective co-operation of labour and management for its success. Our efforts to increase productivity also depend ultimately on such co-operation.

"Co-operation between labour, management and government in planning for the future will become increasingly essential in Canada. In a free society, this is the best way to accomplish the things we all desire. It is encouraging to note that organized labour and management are recognizing this.

"Our economy has been gaining in strength over the past year. The outlook for 1963 is good, and we can expect it to be a happy and prosperous year for Canada...."

CANADA COUNCIL MEDAL WINNERS

Three distinguished Canadians have been honoured by the Canada Council for outstanding work in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Canada Council Medals, first instituted in 1961, will be presented, at a special dinner to be held early in 1963, to Leonard Brockington, Claude Champagne, and Arthur Lismer.

The Canada Council Medal was created as an award of the highest possible distinction to Cana-

dians who had made contributions in the arts, humanities and social sciences representing major achievements in the cultural development of the country.

To inaugurate the programme, ten Medals were presented in 1962, to Marius Barbeau, Brooke Claxton (posthumously), Lionel Groulx, Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, Vincent Massey, Wilfrid Pelletier, E.J. Pratt, Healey Willan, and Ethel Wilson.

Each medal is accompanied by a cash award of \$2,000.