

EMPLOYMENT DURING 1956

There were plenty of job opportunities in most parts of the country throughout much of 1956 and working conditions generally continued to improve, the Hon. Milton F. Gregg, V.C., said in his annual year end review.

The increase in employment during 1956 did not equal the record rate established in 1955, but it did increase about as much as the supply of manpower and the availability of other resources would permit. Some shortages of labour developed during the period of peak summer demand, even with increased labour force participation, the natural growth of the population and immigration. These shortages of manpower were more marked in 1956 than at any time since the defence build-up following the outbreak of the Korean War in 1951. They were confined, however, largely to Ontario and Western Canada. In the Atlantic Region the labour force was more fully employed this year than it had been for many years. Employment in the Province of Quebec also increased substantially, but with rare exceptions there were sufficient workers available there to meet the demand.

Accompanying the larger number of job opportunities was an increase in the proportion of the adult population taking employment, especially during the summer months. This development, which represented a reversal of the trend during the last two years, was especially evident in the younger and older age groups of the labour force--that is between the ages of 14 and 19 and age 65 and over. There was also an increase in the proportion of women in the working force.

The movement from agriculture into other types of employment during the year was esti-

mated at about 60,000 workers, or about twice the average for the past ten years. In the face of this, farmers in many parts of the country experienced severe difficulties in obtaining sufficient labour. Part of the explanation for the difficulties in recruiting farm labour also lies in the fact that although more immigrants entered Canada this year than in 1955, the number of experienced farm workers among them was actually smaller.

An examination of average employment during the summer months of 1956 shows that the total non-agricultural employment increased by about one-quarter of a million, as compared with the same period in 1955. There were spectacular employment gains in some industries, particularly manufacturing, construction and the distribution and service industries. These accounted for about 90 per cent of the total increase. In the manufacturing industry, employment this summer increased about 10 per cent from the low point reached in 1954, but the net gain since May 1953 was almost 3 per cent.

For the Canadian labour movement, 1956 proved to be one of the most significant years in its history. At the first convention of the new Canadian Labour Congress in April a high degree of unity was achieved in the Canadian labour movement. With the merging of the affiliated membership of the former Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour, the new CLC began its operations with more than one million affiliated members. Although the subsidiary organizations of the two old congresses at the provincial and local levels have two years in which to merge their organizations, several of them have already completed the mergers.

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PULP AND PAPER BOOM: Canada's pulp and paper industry had another year of steady progress in 1955, setting new high records in the production of pulp, newsprint and other kinds of paper and paperboards, in gross and net values of products, in employment and in salaries and wages paid.

The gross value of the industry's products in 1955 was \$1,326,938,000, an increase of nearly 7 per cent over the previous peak of \$1,241,665,000 reached in 1954. The net value of products rose to \$689,818,000 from \$641,517,000 and material costs to \$546,079,000 from \$515,258,000. The number of employees increased to 62,205 from 60,837 in 1954 and the payroll to \$265,298,000 from \$252,598,000.

Newsprint production reached 6,196,000 tons valued at \$688,338,000 as compared with 6,001,000 tons valued at \$657,487,000 in the preceding year. Other kinds of paper and paperboard, totalling 1,804,000 tons valued at \$293,101,000, compared with 1,649,000 tons worth \$268,103,000 in 1954. Total production

of paper and paperboard thus reached 8,000,000 tons as compared with 7,650,000 in 1954 valued at \$981,439,000 versus \$925,591,000.

Pulp production reached 10,151,000 tons valued at \$693,403,000 as compared with 9,673,000 tons valued at \$655,917,000 in the preceding year. Pulp production in 1955 comprised 7,312,000 tons made for use in producing mills (7,053,000 in 1954), 455,000 tons made for sale in Canada (419,000), and 2,383,000 tons made for export (2,201,000 in 1954).

Quebec again led the provinces in gross value of the industry's products in 1955 with a total of \$560,900,000 versus \$532,327,000 in the preceding year, Ontario second with \$401,749,000 versus \$364,994,000, and British Columbia third with \$169,370,000 versus \$157,782,000.

Totals for the other provinces were: New Brunswick, \$94,403,000 (\$88,762,000 in 1954); Newfoundland, \$62,616,000 (\$62,233,000); Nova Scotia, \$21,084,000 (\$20,715,000); and Manitoba and Alberta, \$16,816,000 (\$14,853,000).