

CANADIAN LABOUR FORCE

Employment followed the usual seasonal pattern during October and November 1963. An estimated 6,496,000 persons held jobs in November, 80,000 fewer over the month. Unemployment increased by 38,000, to 303,000, in the same period, a rise smaller than the seasonal average.

Compared with a year earlier, employment was up 226,000, or 3.6 per cent, and unemployment was down 39,000. The labour force, at 6,799,000, showed an increase of 2.8 per cent over the year.

EMPLOYMENT

After an above-average increase in the previous month, employment in non-farm industries declined seasonally by 33,000 in October and November. With the completion of harvesting operations, employment in agriculture decreased by 47,000.

Total employment in November was 3.6 per cent higher than a year earlier, compared with an average annual increase of 2.1 per cent over the past decade. Employment increases continued to be mainly in the service, manufacturing, trade and construction industries. There was no appreciable change in other industries.

Employment of young people in recent months has shown a significant increase over a year earlier. In November, 583,000 persons from 14 to 19 years of age were employed, 50,000 more than in November 1962. In the 20-24 age group, 811,000 had jobs, an increase of 41,000 over the year.

Employment was up considerably from the previous year in all regions except the Atlantic region, where there was no change. The largest percentage increases were in Quebec and British Columbia - 4.8 per cent in both regions.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rose from 265,000 to 303,000 in October and November, a relatively small increase for this time of year, and nearly all among men.

Of the 303,000 unemployed, some 227,000 had been unemployed for three months or less. An estimated 34,000 had been seeking work from four to six months and 42,000 for seven months or more.

Unemployment in November represented 4.5 per cent of the labour force, compared to 5.2 per cent a year ago and 5.4 per cent two years ago. Unemployment rates were lower than a year ago in all five regions. Seasonally adjusted, the unemployment rate was at its lowest since the summer of 1957, at 5.1 per cent.

CENTENNIAL GRANTS TO PROVINCES

Additional financial assistance of \$2,500,000 to each of eight of Canada's ten provinces for capital projects marking the centennial of Confederation was announced on January 8 by Mr. Maurice Lamontagne, President of the Privy Council, the Cabinet Minister charged with responsibility for centennial planning.

The \$20 million approved for provincial cultural centres will extend to provinces other than Prince

Edward Island and Quebec. It represents a federal offer of 50 per cent of the costs of projects comparable to the buildings to be constructed in Quebec and Charlottetown, up to a maximum of \$2,500,000 in each case. "It should be made clear," Mr. Lamontagne said, "that no further assistance will be available for capital projects to commemorate the centennial, except in the national capital."

A CONSISTENT THEME

This new programme, he added, would, with the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Ottawa, provide a consistent theme for federal participation in the centennial. The capital works, he added, would be almost exclusively cultural in nature, which would give a clear relevance to the current problems of Confederation, which are basically cultural.

Projects for the eight provinces would be limited, Mr. Lamontagne said, to cultural centres like those in Charlottetown and Quebec City, but not necessarily in the provincial capitals. "It is possible," he pointed out, "that, in British Columbia and New Brunswick, the provincial governments might wish to have the centres in Vancouver and Saint John."

ALL WORKERS TO BE REGISTERED

Labour Minister Allan J. MacEachen has announced that the Government intends to establish a new system for maintaining the records of individuals required by various federal departments. The first step will be to register all employed persons in Canada; plans are under way to begin this registration on April 1.

At present, for unemployment-insurance purposes, the Unemployment Insurance Commission keeps a register of all persons working in insured employment. Each person is assigned an individual number, so that appropriate records may be maintained with accuracy.

With the growth of the labour force and the increasing use of electronic data-processing equipment for government record-keeping, the registration system employed by the Unemployment Insurance Commission is becoming obsolete. In view of the recommendation of the Glassco Commission that a single numbering system should be established by the Government to replace the multiplicity of systems now in effect, it was felt that a good start would be to introduce a new method that would be applied at first to the operations of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. The new numbering system will be introduced in conjunction with the annual renewal of unemployment-insurance books that will take place, as usual, this spring.

The new system includes issuance of a social-insurance card to all employed persons, whether they are covered by unemployment insurance or not. It will be broad enough and flexible enough to be adapted to the record-keeping required for the proposed pension plan and other social-security measures.