

WAGE INCREASES

Further wage increases in Canadian industry in the first half of 1957 were evident from a study of 228 collective agreements by the Department of Labour, according to an announcement by Mr. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour.

The study of agreements was conducted by the Labour Department's Economics and Research Branch. The study showed that wage increases in instalments over two or more years and agreements signed for corresponding long periods were the outstanding features of settlements reached in the first half of 1957, as they were during the entire year 1956. However, the predominance of this type of settlement was not quite as pronounced as last year.

Information derived from 139 agreements covering 161,000 workers which were negotiated in 1956, but provided wage increases in 1957, showed that the majority of the workers were scheduled to receive between 5 and 10 cents an hour increases in 1957.

Workers covered by one-year agreements negotiated during the first six months of 1957 were almost equally divided between those who receive 5 to 10 cents an hour increase and those who receive 10 to 15 cents an hour. About 13 per cent of the employees covered receive more than 15 cents-an-hour increases.

The collective agreement study in 1957 showed that a higher proportion of workers receive more than 10 cents-an-hour increase than was the case in 1956. It appeared from the study that negotiations in 1957 tended to result in higher immediate increases than negotiations last year.

Changes in fringe benefits formed an important part of the collective bargaining settlements reached in the first six months of 1957. Emphasis among the changes appeared to be in the area of vacations and paid statutory holidays. Examination of the agreements showed that settlements in the higher wage increase groups more often contained changes in fringe benefits than those providing lower wage increases.

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MORE BEER

Value of factory shipments by Canadian breweries in 1956 reached a record total of \$215,897,000, up 2.5 per cent from the preceding year's \$210,572,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Sales tax and other exercise taxes and duties paid to the federal and provincial governments totalled \$217,731,000.

Shipments of beer, ale, stout and porter increased in quantity to 214,979,000 gallons from 211,102,000 in 1955 and accounted for \$339,474,000 of the total selling value of products versus \$331,117,000. Increases were recorded in quantity and value both for bottled and canned beer, but draught beer declined.

CANADA - SWITZERLAND TRADE

The Department of External Affairs has announced that Canada will participate in the tariff negotiations which are to be conducted with Switzerland under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva commencing in May 1958. These negotiations are to be held in order that Switzerland may become a member of the GATT.

It is expected that the negotiations between Canada and Switzerland will be rather limited in scope. They will however provide an opportunity for the first time under GATT to seek some tariff concessions from Switzerland, which is already a valuable market for wheat and a number of other Canadian products.

Canada and Switzerland exchange most-favoured-nation tariff treatment under a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Reciprocal Establishment of 1855 between the United Kingdom and Switzerland, to which Canada adheres. However, this treaty does not provide for the legal binding of tariff rates.

Switzerland maintains relatively few import restrictions and does not discriminate against dollar imports. In 1956 Canadian exports to Switzerland amounted to \$34 million and imports from Switzerland to \$22 million. Canada is one of Switzerland's principal suppliers of wheat and a number of industrial raw materials. Switzerland also provides a small but regular market for a wide range of Canadian manufactured goods. About one-third of Canada's total imports from Switzerland consist of clocks, watches and parts. Most other imports from Switzerland are similarly in the consumer goods category.

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COMMUNITY PASTURE

Officials of the Livestock and Livestock Products Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, recently visited the community pasture on the Minudie Dyke near Amherst, N.S. This 2,700 acre pasture was begun last summer by the Federal and Nova Scotia Governments, and is one of a number established to enable operators of small farms to increase their livestock carrying capacity. They do so by devoting more of the land on their farms to the production of field crops and hay or silage for winter feeding, with the community pasture supplying the summer grazing. This pasture now provides feed for some 450 cattle, and can accommodate many more.

At the time of the visit, surplus hay was being removed and sold to farmers at ten dollars per ton baled. The hay is coarse, but edible if left to weather before being baled. If not sold for feed, however, it will go to blueberry growers for burning.

The cattle are run in two herds - breeding and market. Running with the breeding herd are three production tested bulls from the Ex-