

At March 31, 1957, the gross liabilities of the Government amounted to \$18,326 million of which \$14,368 million consisted of unmatured bonds and treasury bills. As assets totalled \$7,318 million, the net debt of Canada amounted to \$11,008 million at the end of the fiscal year.

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**BUILDING FUNDS:** Public Works Minister Howard Green has announced the completion by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation of its arrangements to add \$150,000,000 of federal funds to current mortgage lending activity under the National Housing Act. Mr. Green said that the federal money will be available to supplement the National Housing Act mortgage lending programmes of the banks, life insurance companies and trust and loan companies operating as approved lenders under the Act.

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### VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

Growth was substantial in vocational and technical training in Canada between 1951 and 1956, according to the first progress report on the Labour Department's research programme on the training of skilled manpower which has been released by Hon. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour.

The returns from the provinces indicated that total annual expenditures on all branches of vocational and technical training have increased from approximately \$29,500,000 in 1951 to nearly \$41,500,000 in 1956 and that there had been substantial growth in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Preliminary figures for enrolment for 1956 in full-time courses of those public schools and institutes which provide some form of vocational training totalled approximately 97,000 of whom approximately 37,000 or 38 per cent were enrolled in industrial and technical courses as distinct from commercial, agricultural and home-making courses. Of these 37,000 approximately 6,000 were enrolled in advanced technical courses, 7,000 in specialized short-term courses and 24,000 in general industrial courses of secondary schools. More than 47,000 were reported as enrolled in vocational evening classes.

In addition, there were 5,500 people enrolled in provincial vocational correspondence courses, about 10,000 in special classes for indentured apprentices, and over 30,500 in private trade schools.

The research programme was begun in 1956 under the direction of the Interdepartmental Skilled Manpower Training Research Committee in co-operation with the provinces and other

**CIVIL DEFENCE DAY:** Friday, October 4, 1957 has been set aside by Civil Defence organizations in all parts of Canada as National Civil Defence Day. Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare and federal cabinet minister responsible for Civil Defence has announced.

"Primarily", the minister said, "the objective of National Civil Defence Day is to focus the attention of every citizen in Canada on Civil Defence, and to emphasize the importance of Civil Defence in the defence of Canada under emergency conditions".

Mr. Monteith said that the observance of National Civil Defence Day is being organized by provincial and municipal Civil Defence bodies, with the advice and assistance of the federal organization. Displays, demonstrations and other public presentations will be featured on the programmes being planned across the country by individual units.

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interested agencies. This committee, consisting of members from several government departments and agencies, was established to make a critical examination of changing requirements for skilled manpower in Canadian industries and occupations.

The preliminary findings showed that many of the new occupations were emerging on the "technician" level between the skilled tradesman and the professional engineer or scientist. The report points out that the increased requirements for skilled tradesmen and particularly technicians have tended to reduce requirements for semi-skilled assemblers and machine operators.

The research programme revealed that apprenticeship and trade school training played an important part in the training of skilled workers in the heavy industrial machinery, aircraft and automotive parts industries. However, apprenticeship and trade school training were not considered particularly important as a source of skilled manpower in the electrical products and chemical industries.

More consideration should be given to the role of public training institutions in the development of apprenticeship, including the need for flexibility in entrance requirements, the importance of uniformity in instruction and adjustments in the length and character of training in keeping with industrial requirements, the preliminary findings indicated.

The research indicated that immigrants generally had received more formal training than Canadians through apprenticeship or in technical institutions. Their training also seemed to involve a greater integration of classroom and on-the-job training.