

**GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT:** Canada's total output of goods and services in the first quarter of 1957 showed little change from the fourth quarter of 1956, after allowance for seasonal factors, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There was an increase of 0.9 percent in non-farm gross national product and it is estimated that this was largely accounted for by price increases. In volume terms, non-farm output of goods and services in the first quarter was virtually unchanged. This relative stability in the volume of non-farm output in the first quarter follows successive quarter-to-quarter increases since mid-1954.

The quarterly estimates of total gross national product -- farm and non-farm -- include an arbitrary figure for farm output which is based on the assumption that a normal crop will be realized this year compared with the large crop realized in 1956. Accordingly the total gross national product for the first quarter is somewhat lower than that of the preceding quarter, allowing for seasonal factors.

The levelling-off in gross national product is the net result of a number of divergent movements among major components. The major aggregates of labour income and consumer expenditure both increased by 1.5 percent between the fourth and first quarter. Exports and imports of goods and services both increased by 1 percent. Corporation profits were lower, after seasonal adjustment. Housing showed a smaller decline than in preceding quarters; and non-residential construction appears to have been slightly lower. There was, however, a further expansion in expenditures for machinery and equipment. Moreover, business inventories continued to accumulate, although on a smaller scale than in the preceding quarter.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES DROP:** The situation with respect to the incidence of communicable diseases in Canada has shown further improvements in 1956, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics annual report on notifiable diseases which is compiled from reports received weekly from the provincial departments of health.

Newly-reported cases of epidemic poliomyelitis dropped in 1956 by 40 percent to 607 cases from 1,021 in 1955 and by 93 percent from the all-time high of 8,878 cases in 1953. Cases in 1956 decreased in all provinces except Quebec and Ontario. The incidence rate of 3.8 per 100,000 population was the lowest recorded since 1945, when a rate of 3.2 was shown. Incidence of paralytic poliomyelitis cases followed much the same pattern as all types, Quebec and Ontario showing increases compared to 1955. The incidence rate for paralytic cases in Canada, 2.3 per 100,000 population, was the lowest since 1950, when 2.1 was recorded.

Tuberculosis cases for 1956, at 9,377, decreased by 8.1 percent from 10,199 in 1955. This represents a drop of 38.7 percent compared to 1944, when a high of 15,292 cases were reported. Cases for 1956 in Nova Scotia and Manitoba increased by 33.3 percent and 9.3 percent, respectively, compared to 1955. The incidence rate per 100,000 population for Canada has declined steadily from a high of 128.2 in 1944 to 58.4 in 1956.

Veneral diseases declined only slightly to 16,642 cases from 16,723 in 1955. However, the number dropped steadily each year since 1946 when 41,556 cases were recorded, representing a decline of 60 percent during the decade. Only Newfoundland, Manitoba and British Columbia showed increases.

Infectious hepatitis and jaundice, with 2,937 cases in 1956, declined by 24.4 percent from 1955 when 3,885 were recorded. British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta showed the greatest drop in the number of reported cases, while the largest percentage decreases were recorded for Alberta and British Columbia, 83.8 percent and 59.2 percent, respectively, compared to 1955. Prince Edward Island registered the sharpest decline in the incidence rate, 115.8 per 100,000 population compared to 221.0 in 1955.

Decreases were also recorded in the number of cases for the following diseases: influenza, 71.1 percent; whooping cough, 37.8 percent; erysipelas, 14.3 percent; dysentery, 9.2 percent; conjunctivitis and meningococcal meningitis and meningococemia, 8.1 percent; measles, 5.2 percent; and diphtheria, 2.9 percent.

Diseases for which increases were reported as compared to the previous year, include: rubella, 154.3 percent; encephalomyelitis, 31.4 percent; scarlet fever and septic sore throat, 24.6 percent; typhoid and paratyphoid, 19.7 percent; undulant fever, 15.6 percent; chickenpox, 8.5 percent; and mumps, 3.4 percent.

**APPRENTICES MAKE IMPRESSION:** Soldier-apprentices from the Royal Canadian School of Artillery, Camp Shilo, Man., made a big impression recently during their visit to Sherwood, North Dakota, to participate in US Memorial Day ceremonies.

Under the command of Major Frank Michie, of Kingston, Ont., and Lt. Larry Greig, Port Alice BC, the apprentice troop paraded with veterans of the US armed services and mounted guard on a memorial to the Unknown Soldier.

The soldier-apprentices were accompanied by a 24-piece military band under the direction of Drum Major Bill Darby, of Georgetown, Ont.

More than 1,200 spectators came from the surrounding countryside to witness the ceremonies and members of the American Legion Post in Sherwood have been invited to take part in Canadian "Rememberance Day" ceremonies in nearby Gainsborough, Sask., on November 11.