

The study, which was made by the Economics and Research Branch of the Labour Department, covered collective agreements signed by members of local builders' exchange or standard union agreements signed individually by a number of contractors. The eight construction occupations covered by the survey were carpenters, bricklayers, electricians, plumbers, plasterers, painters, sheet-metal workers, and labourers.

The survey disclosed a wide variation in hourly wage rates in all the occupations with generally lower rates in construction areas in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces than in the rest of Canada. Rates for Toronto and urban centres in British Columbia were found to be generally higher than in other centres.

The ranges of hourly wage rates in the eight construction occupations were: carpenters, \$1.30 to \$2.20; bricklayers, \$1.45 to \$2.35; electricians, \$1.30 to \$2.33; plumbers, \$1.30 to \$2.30; plasterers, \$1.45 to \$2.25; painters, \$1.20 to \$2.07; sheet-metal workers, \$1.25 to \$2.25; labourers, 95 cents to \$1.55.

Dual rates of pay for overtime work were found to be widely prevalent in the construction industry.

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**DECEMBER DEFICIT:** Budgetary revenues in December amounted to \$379.1 million, or \$19.3 million less than in December, 1952, and expenditures totalled \$413.8 million, or \$12.4 million less than those for December of last year. For December, 1953 the budgetary deficit was \$34.7 million compared with a surplus of \$9 million for November, 1953, and a deficit of \$27.8 million for December a year ago, the Acting Minister of Finance, Mr. Stuart S. Garson, announced on January 23.

For the first nine months of the current fiscal year, budgetary revenues amounted to \$3,168.6 million or \$83.4 million more than for the corresponding period last year. Budgetary expenditures for the period amounted to \$2,928.2 million, an increase of \$107.1 million over expenditures for the first nine months of the preceding fiscal year. For the nine-month period to December 31, 1953, the budgetary surplus was \$240.4 million, or \$23.7 million less than for the same period a year ago.

In the first three quarters of the present fiscal year, approximately 71 per cent of total revenues of \$4,473 million, as forecast at the time of the budget, have been collected and about 66 per cent of the forecast expenditures of \$4,462 million have been made. To this date last year, 71 per cent of total revenues for the fiscal year as a whole had been collected and 65 per cent of total expenditures for the year had been made.

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Car loadings on railways totalled 3,992,416 in 1953, 4% less than in 1952.

**CIVILIAN REHABILITATION:** A new federal Department of Labour film, which will be shown to thousands of Canadian business executives during the course of the next few weeks, with a view to widening the employment horizon for the physically disabled, was screened for the first time at Canadian premières in Windsor and Montreal on January 22.

"Everybody's Handicapped" is the title of the film, which has received the endorsement of the National Advisory Committee on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons. It contends that a person with a physical disability is not handicapped if properly placed in employment. The film points out that everyone is handicapped for certain occupations, whether his physical limitations are evident or not, and that only by proper selection of occupation does the so-called able-bodied worker overcome his or her particular handicaps. By the same process a person with a serious disability can have a successful career in the workaday world.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, was the chief speaker at the première of the English version at Windsor, and the Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg, introduced the first showing of the French version in Montreal.

Three federal government Departments, Veterans Affairs, Health and Welfare and Labour are co-operating in the overall planning of a civilian rehabilitation programme in which the film will play a part.

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**FARM INCOME DOWN 4 P.C.:** Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products and from grain adjustment payments on previous year's crops in 1953 reached an estimated \$2,674,679,000 according to preliminary calculations by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was smaller by 4% than the 1952 total of \$2,778,343,000, and 5% below the all-time high of \$2,811,949,000 received in 1951. Supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act amounted to only \$1,600,000 as compared with \$5,100,000 in 1952 and \$10,400,000 in 1951.

Income from the sale of grains in 1953 was slightly below the 1952 level, largely as a result of smaller participation payments and reduced returns from the sale of coarse grains more than offsetting larger receipts from wheat. Reduced receipts from live stock reflect smaller income from the sale of hogs, sheep and lambs. While income was down substantially for potatoes, gains were registered for dairy products and eggs.

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Hogs on farms numbered 4,721,000 at the start of December last year, 10% less than in 1952, but the 1954 spring crop is expected to raise the total 36%.