

**REFUGEE RELIEF:** The Department of External Affairs has announced that the second \$500,000 of the \$1,000,000 voted for Hungarian relief by the Canadian Parliament in its Special Session in November will be distributed through the facilities of the Canadian Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees.

The Canadian Red Cross will receive \$100,000 for use in its International Assistance Programme for Hungarian Relief which, among other things, covers the provision of aid to refugees in various camps throughout Europe including those in the Netherlands where immigrants to Canada are now located.

The High Commissioner for refugees, who has been designated by the United Nations Secretary-General to co-ordinate United Nations activities in the field of Hungarian relief, will receive \$400,000.

Of the \$400,000 which will be turned over to the High Commissioner for refugees, \$250,000 is intended for the use of the Austrian Government to help provide for Hungarian refugees in Austria who are not now covered by the terms of the United Nations-International Red Cross Agreement under which the Red Cross acts as administrator for the United Nations in certain of the refugee camps in Austria.

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**WORK FOR HANDICAPPED:** A new record total of 24,694 physically handicapped persons were placed in jobs by the National Employment Service in 1956, it was announced by Col. J.G. Bisson, Chief Commissioner of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Of these, 18,096 were male and 6,598 were female.

Col. Bisson noted that placements of this type had increased rapidly in recent years. The number of special placements made in 1954 was 13,777, and in 1955, 19,753. This steady improvement is attributed largely to the growing awareness of employers that physically handicapped persons make excellent workers when they are placed in jobs that are within their capabilities. Other factors are: generally good employment conditions, excellent publicity from many sources, and improvement in the numbers and training of National Employment Service special placements officers. Col. Bisson said that at the present time special placements officers are located mainly at the larger centres, although similar service is provided on a part time basis in smaller localities. However, plans are under consideration to provide training for those responsible for special placements work in the smaller centres.

The breakdown of special placements by regions is as follows: Ontario, 7,913 (5,609 males and 2,304 females); Quebec, 8,430 (6,444 males and 1,986 females); Prairie provinces, 4,041 (2,746 males and 1,295 females); Pacific region, 3,070 (2,207 males and 863 females); and the Atlantic provinces, 1,240 (1,090 males and 150 females).

**NEW 1953 PEAK:** Canadian automobile manufacturers stepped-up their shipments to a near-record total of 470,674 units in 1956, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. This was an increase of more than 4 per cent over 1955's 453,623 vehicles, and only slightly below the all-time peak of 479,649 units shipped in 1953. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States increased to 43,493 units from 35,968 in 1955 and 26,153 in 1953.

December's shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles increased to 46,985 units from 43,224 a month earlier and 28,185 in the corresponding month of 1955. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States rose to 2,553 units from 1,760 in November but fell from 4,509 a year earlier.

The year's shipments of Canadian-made passenger cars eased to 374,126 units from 374,761 in 1955, but were well above 1953's total of 360,196 units. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States rose to 37,401 units from 29,793 in the preceding year and 22,123 in 1953.

Shipments of commercial vehicles jumped to 96,548 units in 1956 from 78,862 in the preceding year but dropped sharply from 1953's 119,453 units. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States totalled 6,092, slightly below the preceding year's 6,175 but well above 1953's total of 4,030.

Canadian-made passenger cars shipped for the domestic market in 1956 numbered 349,126, little changed from 349,042 in 1955 but well above 1953's 319,739 units. Vehicles for export fell to 25,000 units in 1956 from 24,719 in the preceding year and 40,457 in 1953. Commercial vehicles shipped for sale in Canada increased in 1956 to 88,068 units from 69,487 in the preceding year but decreased from 1953's high total of 99,643.

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**COAL OUTPUT:** Coal production rose slightly in 1956 to 14,848,343 tons from 14,818,880 in 1955, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. All producing areas except Alberta, had higher output than in the preceding year. Totals were: Nova Scotia, 5,773,717 tons (5,731,026 tons in 1955); New Brunswick, 936,566 (877,838); Saskatchewan, 2,342,424 (2,293,816); Alberta, 4,331,327 (4,455,279); and British Columbia and Yukon, 1,464,309 (1,460,921). Landed imports rose nearly 19 per cent in the year to 23,120,300 tons from 19,490,013, with the major portion going to Ontario at 19,241,071 tons versus 16,245,525.

December output declined over 13 per cent to 1,497,000 tons from 1,728,652 a year earlier, Saskatchewan registering the lone increase. Totals were: Nova Scotia, 440,000 tons (518,608 tons a year earlier); New Brunswick, 81,000 (94,964); Saskatchewan, 363,000 (354,546); Alberta, 503,000 (637,852); and British Columbia and Yukon, 110,000 (122,682). Landed imports were 1.5 per cent greater at 1,188,433 tons against 1,171,142.