

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: Industrial employment showed a further gain at the beginning of August and the Bureau of Statistics composite index reached a new peak for August 1 at 191.9 as compared with 191.2 a month earlier, and 188.8 a year ago.

The payrolls index advanced to 470.2 from 468.9 a month ago, and 433.3 a year ago. Average weekly wages stood at \$57.51, down slightly from July's \$57.57, but up from last year's August 1 figure of \$53.89. The reduction of six cents from July was largely seasonal, due in part to the employment of temporary workers, usually taken on at below-average rates of pay, and in part to losses in working time during the vacation and hot weather period. Curtailment in overtime work and industrial disputes were also factors.

For the most part, the industrial changes in employment at August 1 as compared with July 1 were moderate. The seasonal decline of 7.1 per cent in logging was somewhat less than usual for the time of year, and for the first time in a lengthy period, the index was above its level a year ago. As in the earlier months of this year, however, the August 1 figure was lower than at the same date in 1951. In spite of labour-management disputes in the Ontario gold fields, employment in mining as a whole rose slightly in the month. The index was lower than at August 1, 1952. Manufacturing was quieter, with small losses in both durable and non-durable goods. There was practically no general change in trade, while the remaining industries afforded more employment. The greatest gain of 4.7 per cent took place in construction.

The general movement was favourable in all provinces except Quebec and Ontario, where the reductions in staff were slight, as was the improvement elsewhere indicated. Heightened activity was reported in 17 of the cities for which statistics are available; on the whole, the changes in the metropolitan areas were also moderate.

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NEW ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER: Major W.H. Scott, 37, of Toronto and Ottawa, an officer of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada (formerly the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion) in Germany has been appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General (Maintenance), Headquarters, Canadian Base Units in Europe, Army Headquarters announced recently....

For gallantry during the Dieppe raid Major Scott was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star. While a prisoner of war in Germany, he took a diploma from Oxford University in Economics.

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Canadians made 244 long distance telephone calls to persons in Asia in 1951, and 58 calls to persons in Africa.

SHELTERED LAKES DANGEROUS TO AIRCRAFT: Mr. George J. Klein, of the Division of Mechanical Engineering of the National Research Council, pioneered studies on the physical characteristics of Canada's snow-cover, in connection with his work on aircraft skis. One result was the finding that on lakes sheltered from the wind, the snow is usually very soft and often covers a fairly deep layer of slush. An early heavy snow on thin ice may force the ice down under the load, flooding the surface and producing the slush. These conditions often last throughout the entire winter even with temperatures well below zero. Landings and take-offs of aircraft from such lakes are very difficult and can be dangerous.

In order to secure uniform and comparable results in his test work on snow, Mr. Klein developed several special instruments that together became the "Canadian Snow Kit". This includes snow sample cutters, an accurate beam-type balance, a hardness gauge, a cup engraved with circular lines for measuring grain size when used with a spatula and magnifying glass, and various thermometers.

Mr. Klein's work on snow received international recognition when he was chosen as one of the members of the Committee on Snow Classification established under the Commission on Snow and Ice of the International Association of Hydrology. The other members of the Committee are Dr. Vincent Schaefer of the U.S.A., Dr. Marcel de Quervain of Switzerland, and Professor Nakaya of Japan.

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MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in September fell below a year earlier for the first time this year, according to preliminary indications based on the Bureau's monthly dairy-farm survey. The milk equivalent of dairy factory production was 2.5 per cent less than last September and smaller quantities were utilized for direct use on farms. The hot, dry weather of late August, which adversely affected the condition of pastures, was mainly responsible. The gain in cow numbers is still being maintained and more cows are being freshened. Nevertheless, the rise in production over the preceding year is slowing up, so that the increase in milk production shown in the summer months is not likely to be maintained.

Milk production in August amounted to 1,794,443,000 pounds, an increase of 35,000,000 pounds or two per cent over last year's August output. Fluid sales, at 375,012,000 pounds compared with 359,959,000 a year earlier, and represented approximately 21 per cent of the milk supply, while factory products accounted for 63 per cent.

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The manufacturing payroll in Canada reached a peak of \$3,609,546,000 last year, a sizeable gain over the 1951 high of \$3,276,281,000.