

EMPLOYMENT

In spite of the levelling off in production employment continued to rise in the second quarter, with the industrial composite index of employment showing a small gain of 0.6 per cent, apart from seasonal factors. With employment in manufacturing and mining slightly lower, the gains have taken place in construction and some other industries.

The number of persons with jobs in the first six months of this year was nearly 3 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1956 and those with jobs in the non-farm sector 4 per cent higher. However, the rise in employment did not keep pace with the unusually rapid growth of the labour force and the number without jobs and seeking work as a percentage of the labour force averaged 4.7 as compared with 4.3 in the same period of 1956.

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B.W.I. - CANADA DISCUSSIONS: Discussions of a preliminary and exploratory nature were held last week in Ottawa between officials of the British West Indies and Canadian Officials. The West Indian officials were Sir Stephen Luke, Comptroller, Development Welfare in the West Indies and Chairman, Standing Federation Committee, and Mr. John Mordecai, Federal Secretary.

The purpose of these discussions was to consider economic matters of common interest to the British West Indies and Canada. In particular, the West Indian officials, who are concerned in making arrangements for the coming into being early next year of the proposed Federation of the West Indies, reviewed West Indian economic development and indicated some ways in which they feel that Canada might help the Federation. Canadian representatives, who will be enabled by these discussions to report on the possibilities of Canadian aid to the new Federation, put before the West Indian officials various considerations which might guide the development of Canadian relations with the Federation.

The Standing Federation Committee is due to meet within the next two weeks and will receive a report on the talks from their officials.

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IMMIGRATION ESTIMATE: Officials of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration have announced that the estimated total of immigrants to Canada from January 1 to August 31 of this year was 225,000 and that it was possible that the year-end total would be approximately 275,000.

Since 1914, when more than 400,000 immigrants entered Canada, yearly arrivals had not exceeded 200,000.

TO ATOMIC CONFERENCE: The Department of External Affairs has announced that Canada will be represented by Mr. M.H. Wershof, Q.C., at the first general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency opening in Vienna on October 1. Mr. Wershof, Permanent Representative of Canada with the rank of Ambassador at the European office of the United Nations in Geneva, last autumn headed the Canadian Delegation to the conference in New York at which the Statute of the Agency was approved.

Alternatives to Mr. Wershof at the forthcoming conference will be Mr. W.H. Barton and Mr. S. Pollock. Mr. Barton is Counsellor in the Canadian Embassy in Vienna. Mr. Pollock is Director of International Programmes and Contributions in the Department of Finance in Ottawa.

Mr. W. J. Bennett, O.B.E., President of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and President of Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited, is expected to go to Vienna for part of the conference. However, pressure of other duties in Ottawa will not allow him to remain throughout the period of some three or four weeks that the conference is expected to be in session.

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TRANS-ATLANTIC TALKS: Canada's first venture into trans-Atlantic telecommunication by an all-purpose cable was the main factor contributing to a much improved net profit of over \$400,000 which is revealed in the latest report of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation. The Corporation's 7th Annual Report, released by Mr. George H. Hees, Minister of Transport, discloses that the trans-Atlantic telephone cable has given such satisfactory service that, although the new facilities were in use for only six months during the year reported, the telephone volume for the full year increased by 300 per cent. The cable was placed into service in September 1956, a joint Canada-U.K.-U.S.A. project.

In the report, Douglas F. Bowie, President and General Manager, Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, stated that "the greatly improved quality of service given over this new route proved so satisfactory, results exceeded our expectations". Mr. Bowie also revealed that the capacity available for Canadian purposes on the cable was immediately taken up and continues to be fully occupied, so much so he said, "we are now actively planning a second cable between Canada and the United Kingdom in order to meet anticipated growth". The new cable is expected to be ready for operation during 1961.

A steadily rising demand for overseas telegraph message traffic is another feature of the report with this item showing a 17 per cent increase in traffic receipts resulting largely from new business being attracted to direct radio-telegraph routes established by the Corporation to Germany and France.