

EMPLOYMENT PATTERN: The customary seasonal relationships between hirings and separations in certain industries were apparent during the two year period from September, 1951, to August, 1953, according to the Bureau's semi-annual report.

From January to March, when the level of employment is normally stable and at a seasonal low, hirings and separations were in balance. Commencing in April and continuing through June, a rise in the level of employment was associated with an excess of hirings over separations. Equality of hirings and separations at a high level of employment was characteristic of the remaining late summer months and continued into the harvest season. This equality of hirings and separations, associated with a somewhat lower level of employment, obtained during October and November, followed a reduction of hirings in relation to separations in December.

Although seasonal fluctuations in hirings and separations are common to all industries, incidence of seasonality is not uniform either between industries or industry sub-groups. Industries such as construction and forestry and logging exhibit much more extreme fluctuations in both hirings and separations than the total for all industries.

Within the manufacturing industry as a whole a similar situation exists. Such industry sub-groups as foods and beverages, wood products and to a somewhat lesser extent transportation equipment, are highly seasonal in their operations. Balanced against these are industry sub-groups such as printing and publishing, electrical apparatus and supplies, and tobacco and tobacco products which exhibit relatively stable patterns of hirings and separations.

Hirings and separations by regions also display seasonal patterns related to the economic characteristics of the region. In Ontario and Quebec, in which manufacturing occupies an important position, the scope of fluctuations in hirings and separations was less than in the Pacific and Atlantic regions where primary industries are relatively more important.

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MACPHAIL MEMORIAL: A bronze bust of the first woman member of the House of Commons, Miss Agnes C. Macphail, is to be placed on a pedestal in the vicinity of the chamber of the House, it was announced on June 8 by the Speaker. The memorial, by Felix Weihs de Weldon, sculptor, has been offered by two sisters of Miss Macphail.

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There were 235 institutions of higher education in Canada in 1951-52, including universities, junior colleges, technical and professional institutions and independent theological colleges.

EMPLOYMENT FOR GRADUATES: Employment prospects for the 11,000 graduates leaving Canadian universities this spring could be termed bright, stated the Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg, on June 9.

He explained that starting salaries for graduates were slightly higher this year than in 1953. His statement was based on a study of openings and starting salaries conducted by the Executive and Professional Division of the National Employment Service.

The Minister explained that while it appeared that the vast majority of university graduates had found, or soon would find, suitable employment in their chosen professions, the prospects were not quite so good for full summer employment for the undergraduates.

The study showed that starting salaries were highest for graduates in medicine, dentistry, and engineering, although there was considerable variation among the different branches of engineering.

The starting salary range for graduates in medicine as doctors, ranged from a low of \$375 to a high of \$535 and an average of \$421 monthly. For internes the rates were somewhat lower with a low of \$100, a high of \$225, and an average of \$153 monthly. In dentistry, the range was a low of \$350, a high of \$500, and an average of \$406 per month.

In the field of engineering the low starting rate offered for chemical engineers was \$250, the high \$500, and the average \$322 monthly; for mining engineers, low \$265, high \$415, average \$327.50; for petroleum engineers, low \$300, high \$375, average \$351; for electrical engineers, low \$250, high \$425, average \$305; for mechanical engineers, low \$250, high \$390, average \$308; and for civil engineers, low \$230, high \$400, average \$315 per month.

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LIVING COSTS: The consumer price index remained practically unchanged between April 1 and May 1, moving from 115.6 to 115.5. Foods declined from 110.4 to 110.2 as lower quotations for butter, eggs, bananas, oranges and some meat items were more than sufficient to offset increases for coffee, tea, processed cheese, apples, pork, beef and several fresh vegetables.

Due to advances in both the rent and home-ownership components, the shelter index changed from 125.6 to 125.8.

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CANAL TRAFFIC RECORD: Last year a modern record of 33,373,064 tons of freight was locked through Canada's 10 canal systems, 2,018,925 tons or over 6% more than in 1952, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported in its annual review of canal statistics. Traffic on Canadian canals has not exceeded this amount since the construction of the American Davis and Sabine locks at Sault Ste. Marie during the first world war.