

LABOUR FORCE ANALYSIS: Canada's civilian labour force has not kept pace during the last year with the expansion of its civilian non-institutional population.

According to the latest survey of the labour force by the Bureau of Statistics, Canada's total civilian non-institutional population 14 years of age and over increased 374,000 to 9,717,000 in the week ending August 19 this year (excluding Newfoundland, 139,000 to 9,482,000) from 9,343,000 a year earlier, when Newfoundland was not included in the quarterly survey. During this period the civilian labour force rose to 5,324,000, including 114,000 for Newfoundland, from 5,253,000, the total for the other nine provinces thus decreasing by 43,000.

Of the total labour force in August this year, the number with jobs totalled 5,221,000 (5,115,000 excluding Newfoundland) as compared to 5,155,000 in August last year, an increase of 66,000 including Newfoundland but a decrease of 40,000 excluding that Province. On the other hand, the number of persons without jobs and seeking work increased only to 103,000, including Newfoundland, from 98,000, and excluding Newfoundland was down to 95,000. The latter figure is the lowest for the nine Provinces shown in any of the surveys since September, 1948.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

Over the year, Canada's agricultural labour force -- which is not materially affected by the inclusion of Newfoundland -- declined by 85,000, from 1,238,000 to 1,153,000, decreases being shown in all regions. On the other hand, the non-agricultural labour force increased from 4,015,000 last year to 4,171,000 including Newfoundland, and to 4,065,000 excluding Newfoundland. There were increases in the latter in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces and decreases in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and British Columbia.

This year's late spring and harvest, the Bureau's bulletin observes, may have distorted the year to year comparison of the agricultural labour force. But allowing for this factor, the stability of the labour force in the face of an increasing population suggests a greater than normal withdrawal or non-entry of students, married women and older persons. The "group without jobs and seeking work", that is, persons wholly unemployed, remains very small and consists for the most part of those caught between jobs.

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MR. SHINWELL HERE NOV. 3-6: When the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, leaves Washington to return to Ottawa on November 3, he will be accompanied by Right Hon. Emanuel Shinwell, Minister of Defence for the United Kingdom, and His Excellency W. Fockema-Andree,

Secretary of State for War for The Netherlands. Both Ministers are visiting Canada on Mr. Claxton's invitation and will be in this country from November 3-6 inclusive.

Extensive itineraries in Ottawa, Montreal, Trenton and Kingston have been arranged for the visitors.

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PARTIALLY TO RESTORE B.W.I. MARKET: The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced on October 30 a liberalized dollar import programme which will go into effect in the British West Indian colonies on January 1, 1951. This marks the successful conclusion of discussions with the United Kingdom authorities and the Colonial Governments, in consultation with the United States. The plan should result in substantial benefits to Canadian exporters whose markets in the British West Indies have been severely curtailed during the last three years.

The new import plan will insure that Canadian exporters can obtain import licences in the British West Indies for either 50% or 33-1/3% of their average exports to the individual colonies during the base period 1946-47-48. The percentage which will apply will depend upon the commodities involved.

TO RECOVER PORTION OF TRADE

Mr. Howe pointed out that during the base period Canadian sales to the West Indies reached a very high level, and the essential purpose of the plan is to provide Canadian exporters with an opportunity for recovering a portion of the export trade which existed at that time. The plan does not, however, guarantee a market, since the Canadian exporter must first find a willing buyer. Neither does it impose a ceiling, since those territories which are already licensing imports in excess of the guaranteed minimum level may continue to do so.

The procedure will be administered by the Export Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce, which is mailing full details of the plan to all Canadian firms known to be interested in trade with the British West Indies.

"It is particularly gratifying," Mr. Howe stated, "that I am able to announce this encouraging development in a market which has such close traditional ties with Canada, and which has long been of such great interest to businessmen both in the British West Indies and in this country. The way has been opened, but energetic sales efforts by Canadian exporters will still be required to insure that full advantage is taken of the opportunities provided."

The colonies concerned are Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Leeward Islands, Windward Islands and the Bahamas.