

crease was reflected in all regions as follows: Atlantic region 18,645, an increase of 9.1 per cent; Quebec 62,895 (16.7 per cent); Ontario 81,215 (40.4 per cent) the Prairies 43,124 (19 per cent); the Pacific region 19,055 (20.3 per cent).

In comparison with the first quarter's placement increase over last year, to which the large Ontario advance contributed significantly, the figures for the month of March showed a more consistent improvement in all regions. Regional placements in March were: Atlantic coast 5,976, an increase of 11.7 per cent over March of 1961; Quebec 22,165 (22.2 per cent); Ontario 27,100 (22.6 per cent); the Prairies 14,939 (19.1 per cent); the Pacific coast 6,974 (21.3 per cent). The national total for this month was 77,154, 20.8 per cent more than the 63,874 placements in March 1961.

NEW MARITIMES FERRY

The motor vessel "Confederation", built for service as a car and passenger ferry between Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick, and Borden, Prince Edward Island, was accepted by the Department of Transport from the builders, Halifax Shipyards, on April 16. The new vessel had been undergoing trials at Halifax. Built to the requirements of the Department of Transport's Shipbuilding Branch, the "Confederation" will be operated by the Canadian National Railways. It is 279 feet long and has limited icebreaking capabilities. It will be able to carry 68 automobiles and 300 day passengers.

The Council represents provincial governments, voluntary agencies, the medical profession, the universities, organized employers, organized workers and the Federal Government departments. Members are appointed for three years.

CANADIAN SILVER FOR MUSEUM

Some rare items by early Canadian silversmiths have been acquired by the National Museum of Canada. These important acquisitions, states the resources Minister Walter Dandale, are in keeping with the policy to make the National Museum a true house of the best of Canadian traditional crafts. Museum experts visited many areas throughout the country before acquiring these pieces, which include some of the finest examples of the work of eighteenth and early nineteenth century silversmiths of French Canada.

Canadian silversmith dates back to the close of the seventeenth century; the workmanship of the present collection is comparable to that of the finest silversmiths of other countries at that period. A school of artisans developed in French Canada although they worked without any intention of organization. Colonies of silversmiths grew up at Quebec, Montreal and Trois Rivières.

In the early stages of Canadian silversmith the artisans depended for their supply of metal on the silver dollar that were in circulation. The first silversmiths came from France and by 1800 some of them were employing Canadian born apprentices. At the close of the French regime the silversmith's craft was well established in Quebec. Toward the end of the nineteenth century artisans began to lose contact with the public and to work for a few large dealers. Quebec silver established a reputation for fineness and brightness that has never been rivaled in North America. It was only when modern techniques such as die-stamping and spinning were adopted that the number of artisans skilled in the traditional methods began to dwindle.

The national collection contains pieces that represent the art of the silversmith from the earliest period when articles were made exclusively for the tourist and the later period when Quebec merchants purchased by the far trade bought sets of silver. A collection of silver crucifix measuring about 30 inches, collected by the eighteenth century Quebec master

807) and the Yukon Territory, 418 (427).
January-March totals were: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 150 (155); New Brunswick, 57,132 (45,275); Quebec, 83,652 (81,973); Ontario, 504,943 (509,410); Manitoba, 19,708 (14,620); Saskatchewan, 4,811 (5,700); Alberta, 2,388 (3,701); British Columbia, 58,183 (51,300); and the Yukon Territory, 1,049 (1,003).

DR. BETT TO FAO COMMISSION
A request by James to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization for a member to evaluate its food and nutrition programme has been made by Betty Bett, Head of Research Development for Canada's Department of National Health and Welfare, who has appeared until the end of June at the World Health Conference in Geneva.
The Canadian government has made Dr. Bett's service available to FAO for several previous years. Original chair of the Federal Nutrition Division, he has played a prominent part as a member of other international commissions and in food and nutrition development programmes, particularly in the Department of Health, Agriculture and Education as well as in the Canadian Social Welfare Commission. The request to FAO was for a one-man commission to review and evaluate these programmes and to suggest measures for their continuation and improvement. James sets considerable store by the nutrition work which falls broadly under the Prime Minister's "Seven Year Plan".

JOB PLACEMENT
Placements made by the National Employment Service during the first five months of 1962 continued to exceed those during corresponding periods of every year since 1945, according to a statement issued by Mr. Laval Fortier, Chief Commissioner of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.
There were 224,241 persons placed in employment by the NES across Canada during the first quarter of this year, an increase of 24.3 per cent over the 180,074 placements in the same period of 1961. The first quarter of 1962 saw a 24.3 per cent increase in placements over the first quarter of 1961.