

**MINIMUM WAGE LAWS:** The Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg, announced on March 1 that during 1953, there had been an increase in the protection provided for workers under minimum wage laws, particularly in four of Canada's ten provinces. The Minister made the statement while announcing the publication of the 1953 revision of the bulletin, "Provincial Labour Standards".

The four provinces in which important changes were made were Saskatchewan, Quebec, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. In Saskatchewan the provincial Minimum Wage Act was expanded to cover the entire Province. In the larger centres, the minimum wage is now \$26.00 a week, while the minimum rate for the rest of the Province is \$24.50 weekly.

In Quebec, General Minimum Wage Order 4 was revised to bring about an increase in the minimum rate for workers in the smaller centres. The general minimum rates are now 51, 46, and 41 cents an hour for the three zones in the Province.

In Newfoundland, the first order under the Minimum Wage Act went into effect and established a minimum rate of 50 cents an hour for male workers 18 years of age and over in all occupations except farming and market gardening.

Nova Scotia set a minimum rate of 35 cents an hour for women workers in the fish processing industry.

Other important changes during the year were made in benefits under the provincial Workmen's Compensation Acts. The monthly allowance for widows in Ontario was raised from \$50.00 to \$75.00 and children's allowances went up from \$12.00 to \$25.00. In Manitoba, children's allowances were raised from \$12.00 to \$20.00, and in Nova Scotia, they increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00. For orphans, the allowance is now \$30.00 a month in Manitoba and Nova Scotia, and \$35.00 in Ontario.

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**23,000 NEW JOBS:** Expansion of Canadian manufacturing plants during 1953 created an estimated 23,000 new jobs for Canadian workers, it was made known on March 1 by the Minister of Labour.

This total of 23,000 new jobs in 1953 was exceeded only in 1952 when additional labour requirements resulting from expansion to manufacturing capacity, particularly in the aircraft industry, produced 34,000 new jobs. These figures were brought to light as a result of an annual survey of the effects of plant expansion on labour requirements, the Minister explained.

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Portland cement shipments have steadily increased since the war. Last year's all-time peak of 22,224,314 barrels was 3,704,176 or 20% above the 1952 movement, nearly three times 1945's shipments.

**1,500 TONS OF COD FOR U.N. RELIEF WORK:** The Department of External Affairs announced on March 8 that the Canadian Government has contributed an additional 1,500 tons of Canadian salted cod valued at \$450,000 to the United Nations Emergency Relief Programme in Korea. This is the second Canadian contribution of Canadian codfish to this Programme, the first having been made in the autumn of 1953 in the amount of 1,000 tons valued at \$300,000.

The emergency Relief Programme in which 36 countries are participating, was inaugurated by the United Nations Command shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in Korea. Its aim is to provide immediate relief to the Korean people in the form of food, clothing, medicine, etc. This Programme is in addition to the long-range reconstruction programme carried out by the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency in which Canada, together with 33 other countries, participates and towards which the Canadian Government has contributed \$7,250,000.

The salted cod will be shipped to Korea from Halifax and St. John's within the next few weeks.

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**TOP TELEPHONE TALKERS:** Although still ranking behind the United States and Sweden in number of telephones per hundred population, Canada now leads the world in number of telephone conversations per capita, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports.

The Bureau's latest tabulations of telephone statistics reveals that while Canada had 23 telephones per hundred population in 1952 against 30 in the U.S. and 26 in Sweden, Canadians averaged 389 calls each during the year as compared with 382 per capita in the U.S. and 306 per capita in Sweden. In 1951 Canada had 22 telephones per hundred population against 29 in the U.S. and 25 in Sweden, and tied with the U.S. for first place with 376 calls per capita.

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**R. C. E. HONOURED:** Brigadier James L. Melville, CBE, MC, ED, ADC, of Ottawa, Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers, has been elected an honorary member of the Institution of Royal Engineers. The only other Canadian honorary member of the society is General A.G.L. McNaughton.

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The last of the "old faithful" Avro Anson aircraft that played such a vital part in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan are being retired from RCAF service, Air Force Headquarters announced on March 4.

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330,731,000 sq. ft. of plywood were produced last year, 197,557,000 or 31% more than in 1952.