

of 3 per cent over the \$1.09 billion spent in 1953.

Expenditures for construction of an engineering type are expected to rise by about 4 per cent. Present plans call for outlays of \$1.97 billion for the acquisition of machinery and equipment, a decline of 3 per cent from the \$2.03 billion spent for this purpose in 1953.

The report shows that, in each year since 1948, capital expenditures in Canada have accounted for more than 20 per cent of the gross national production. In 1953 this ratio reached 23½ per cent.

The further increase in capital outlays, planned for 1954, reflects the expansionary forces which continue to underlie the Canadian economy, and provides strong support for economic activity in the current year.

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**GENERAL EMPLOYMENT:** Employment in Canada during January showed a greater than usual decline, with the number of persons working full time in a somewhat larger labour force dropping below year earlier levels and short-time employment increasing in a number of industries, according to the monthly joint statement on the employment situation released on February 24 by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Manufacturing employment continued to fall below last year's level, although relatively few industries have contributed appreciably to this drop, and the easing of manufacturing activity resulted in greater unemployment, particularly in industrial areas. In addition, severe winter weather conditions, particularly in the western provinces, brought outdoor activity such as in construction, logging and sawmilling to a virtual standstill, with much higher than usual lay-offs of workers in the areas affected by these weather conditions.

The number of persons without jobs and seeking work during the week ended January 24, as indicated by the Bureau's monthly survey of the labour force, rose to an estimated 280,000 or 5.3% of the civilian labour force of 5,242,000 from 190,000 or 3.6% of the estimated labour force of 5,275,000 in the week ended December 12 last. These figures compare with 187,000 or 3.6% of the somewhat smaller labour force of 5,210,000 in January last year.

Besides those without jobs, the Bureau estimates that an additional 16,000 persons who worked part of the week were looking for work, making a total of 296,000 in search of employment as against 205,000 in December and 198,000 in January last year. Of this total, an estimated 269,000 were seeking full-time work and 27,000 were in search of part-time jobs.

Workers fully employed (35 hours or more) in January totalled 4,465,000 or 85.2% of the labour force, down from 4,550,000 or 86.2% in December and 4,533,000 or 87% in January, 1953. On the other hand, the number working less

than 35 hours was down to 358,000 from 422,000 in December but above last year's total of 321,000. Included in the 358,000 were 172,000 regular part-time workers, 54,000 on short time and 42,000 off work because of bad weather. Persons with jobs but not at work for various reasons totalled 139,000, up from 113,000 in December and down from 169,000 a year earlier.

Applications for employment on file at National Employment Service offices at January 21 numbered 523,600, an increase of 185,500 over the total for December 10 and 139,400 over the figure for January 22, 1953. There were increases over December in all regions, the percentage increase being roughly the same in each and the largest numerical increases in the Quebec and Ontario regions. As compared with a year earlier, the largest percentage increase was in the Ontario region (50%) and the smallest in the Pacific region (13%).

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**ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY:** The fact that "the Canadian Government has already undertaken and is prepared to build the St. Lawrence Seaway as soon as the last legal obstacle is overcome", would seem, according to Canada's Transport Minister, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, "to be bringing a change of heart in Congress". Mr. Chevrier made the statement on February 15 in addressing an audience at Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., in the concluding lecture of a series on the St. Lawrence River Basin.

Pointing out that actual construction awaited final disposal in the United States courts of legal action relating to the licensing of the Power Authority of the State of New York to undertake the United States share of the power project, Mr. Chevrier said that "we do hope the final court decision will be known in time to permit construction to start this coming summer".

The Minister said that if it were not for the progress made on the Canadian plan "the whole project would not be where it is today. We would still be waiting for Congress to make up its mind on a joint agreement, with the outcome as doubtful as ever". He pointed out that the United States Senate had approved a measure which would have the United States build the two canals in the International Rapids section of the St. Lawrence and said that "the information we have is that the House of Representatives may follow the same course".

Such action would "re-open the question of United States participation in the Seaway," Mr. Chevrier explained, "a question to be settled by negotiation". He said that "Canada is committed by an exchange of notes, as part of the negotiations which have advanced the project to its present position, to consider any firm proposal from the United States that would not upset the present power arrangements and would not unduly delay completion of the Seaway."