

**CADET CAMPS:** Close to 8,000 boys of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets will be going to camps across Canada this summer, Army Headquarters has announced.

The programme will be the largest in the history of the Army Cadet organization and is in line with the recently increased ceiling on cadet membership. Within individual corps, there is keen competition for the camp vacancies.

At December 31, 1956, a total of 69,010 boys were members of 559 school and "open" (non-school) corps, and the present ceiling is 75,000 increased last year from 65,000.

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**5-DAY WEEK:** About 56 per cent of sales employees, almost 75 per cent of office employees and about 61 per cent of other employees in retail trade were on a 5-day week in 1956, according to information released by Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Labour.

The information was based on a 1956 survey of working conditions among retail employees conducted by the Labour Department's Economics and Research Branch. The survey covered 1,280 retail outlets employing 73,501 sales workers, 25,598 office employees and 40,841 employees of other types. For the most part the survey was limited to establishments employing 15 or more workers. The report, therefore, may be considered as representative of the situation in medium and larger stores.

The standard weekly hours for the approximate 56 per cent of the sales employees on a 5-day week ranged between 37.5 and 48 hours for substantial numbers of employees. The largest single group, 29 per cent of the total sales force reported, was on a 40-hour week.

The survey indicated that the work-week of office employees in retail trade was, on the whole, shorter than for other retail employees. Almost three-quarters of the office employees were on a 5-day week and two out of every five were on a 40-hour weekly schedule. Another 43 per cent worked fewer than 40 hours weekly.

Retail employees who could not be classified as either sales or office staff, such as shippers, stock-keepers, truck drivers, warehouse employees, etc., tend to work shorter hours than sales staff, approaching fairly closely the standard of office workers.

The survey indicated that the majority of employees in retail trade were covered by pension, group life insurance and hospitalization plans. Figures showed 84.4 per cent of sales employees, 85.5 per cent of office employees, and 82.4 per cent of other retail employees covered by pension plans. Covered by group life insurance plans were, 79.9 per cent of the sales group, 89.1 per cent of the office staffs and 84.4 per cent of the other group. Coverage by hospitalization plans were 77.4, 86.8 and 84.4 per cent respectively, for each of the three groups.

**HIGH BIRTH RATE:** More babies were born in Canada in 1956 than in any year, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics based on registrations filed in provincial vital statistics offices during the year. The estimated total was 450,500 versus 443,000 in 1955. This would yield a birth rate per 1,000 population of 28.2, down slightly from 28.4 in 1955 but the fourth highest since the record rate of 28.9 in 1947 and 28.7 in 1954.

Deaths also reached a new high at an estimated 132,700 versus 128,500 in 1955. This would raise the death rate per 1,000 population to 8.3 from the record low of 8.2 established in 1954 and 1955. Marriages, estimated at close to 132,000 versus 128,000 in 1955, would be the second highest total on record, exceeded only by 137,155 registered in 1946. The 1956 marriage rate per 1,000 population is estimated at 8.3, the first rise following a gradual decline from 10.9 in 1946 to 8.2 in 1955.

Up to the end of December, provincial registrars had processed the registrations of 447,201 births in Canada versus 440,092 in the preceding year, 130,414 deaths versus 126,570, and 130,649 marriages versus 125,851. December's birth registrations numbered 32,876 (32,989 in December 1955), deaths 9,680 (9,961), and marriages 8,318 (7,775).

#### FIVE PROVINCES GAIN

Birth registrations in 1956 were greater in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, but smaller in the other provinces. Provincial registrations were: Newfoundland, 14,283 (14,086 in 1955); Prince Edward Island, 2,596 (2,815); Nova Scotia, 18,718 (19,068); New Brunswick, 17,025 (16,903); Quebec, 135,245 (131,509); Ontario, 144,089 (140,503); Manitoba, 22,267 (22,074); Saskatchewan, 24,208 (24,783); Alberta, 32,905 (34,465); and British Columbia, 35,865 (33,886).

Registrations of deaths were higher in the year in all provinces, except Nova Scotia and Alberta. Registrations by province were: Newfoundland, 2,735 (2,578 in 1955); Prince Edward Island, 936 (881); Nova Scotia, 5,572 (5,984); New Brunswick, 4,698 (4,488); Quebec, 33,502 (32,647); Ontario, 48,352 (45,673); Manitoba, 7,119 (6,715); Saskatchewan, 6,644 (6,628); Alberta, 7,589 (7,970); and British Columbia, 13,267 (13,006).

More marriages were performed in the year in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, but fewer in the remaining provinces. Totals were: Newfoundland, 3,021 (3,263 in 1955); Prince Edward Island, 645 (673); Nova Scotia, 5,440 (5,326); New Brunswick, 4,443 (4,337); Quebec, 36,930 (34,067); Ontario, 45,633 (44,416); Manitoba, 6,631 (6,815); Saskatchewan, 6,417 (6,487); Alberta, 9,790 (9,510); and British Columbia, 11,699 (10,957).