

EMPLOYMENT PICTURE: "It is now over a year since an easing began to occur in the exceptionally tight labour market situation that prevailed in the early summer of 1953. The economy has since proceeded through a period of adjustment, although beginning in the summer of this year indications have pointed to stability and in recent months, some improvement in the level of economic activity and employment while unemployment continued on a higher level in 1954 than in 1953. On balance, we can say that 1954 has been a fairly good year," said the Minister of Labour, Mr Milton F. Gregg, in a year-end review.

"The most encouraging development in the Canadian manpower picture this past summer and fall has been the firming in employment in several industries which last year and particularly last winter were cutting down production," he proceeded. "Since the beginning of the year, employment trends in various parts of the economy have been quite mixed. While employment in the services, trade, finance, and public utilities industries has moved steadily upward, employment in manufacturing has declined. This reduced activity in manufacturing, however, has been moderate and it has not radiated out and prevented growth in other parts of the economy."

MIXED TRENDS

"Since early summer, employment in the non-agricultural industries, which had dropped below the level of the previous year during the winter months, stabilized and in agriculture rose above last year's high level. In manufacturing, some encouraging signs developed during the summer. Although employment in the durable goods industries, which underwent the most serious adjustments during the year, did not entirely achieve stability, some return of strength is indicated in the soft goods industries.

"Some gains in employment have been made in textiles, clothing and leather goods industries, while employment in the paper products, non-metallic minerals, chemicals and petroleum industries has continued to expand. Apart from coal, the mining industry has shown considerable buoyancy in recent months. Forestry employment exceeded last year's level in October and November, and construction has been active this fall particularly in the residential field...."

"With the relative improvement in the employment picture, and despite a continued and fairly rapid growth of the labour force, the demand for labour has been sufficiently strong in recent months to reduce the year to year gap in the unemployment level...."

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There was a 58% jump in the number of carpenters in Canada in the 10 years between 1941 and 1951, from 81,773 to 130,000.

ARCTIC SURVEYS BY AIRCRAFT: The Army, together with the Geodetic Survey of Canada, has tested a new method of surveying which it is hoped will greatly facilitate the mapping of the Canadian Arctic.

The new method developed by C.H. Ney of the Geodetic Survey of Canada, employs an electric light on a high-flying aircraft as a survey marker.

The theory behind the method is that if a plane equipped with a powerful light circles over a triangulation point on the ground, observations can be made on the plane from points up to 100 miles away. Shots of this length require a target 5000 feet above sea level and are only practicable if the target is mounted on a plane.

The fact that the target is moving and never really directly over the triangulation station is compensated for by theodolite observations taken on the plane by men at the station below.

Modern Swiss survey instruments with camera-recorded dials were used.

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PARIS SECRETARIAT: The Crown-operated Export Credits Insurance Corporation of Ottawa, has announced the establishment of a Secretariat in Paris of the Berne Union, with Mr. G.M. Godley as Secretary-General.

The Berne Union was founded in 1934 to study the technique and practice of credit insurance, and as a medium for the exchange of views and information between member countries in assessing risks in foreign markets. The Export Credits Insurance Corporation joined the Union shortly after its incorporation as a Crown company in 1944. Members of the Berne Union include eleven countries of Western Europe.

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C.N.R. UP IN NOVEMBER: A slight improvement in the net revenues of the Canadian National Railways during the month of November was reported December 31 in the Company's income and expense statement. Operating revenues amounted to \$54,520,000 compared with \$52,906,000 for the corresponding month of 1953, and operating expenses decreased \$1,012,000 for the same period with the result that net revenue increased by \$2,626,000.

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CANAL FREIGHT RISE: Volume of freight transported through Canadian canals in November amounted to 3,514,136 tons, an increase of 6.6% over the preceding year's November total of 3,296,648. Increased shipments of barley, oats, petroleum products, sand and other freight through the Welland Ship Canal and barley, oats and soft coal through the St. Lawrence canals resulted in the advance over the preceding November.