

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION: Recent amendments to Workmen's Compensation Acts in eight provinces, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Prince Edward Island are outlined in the 1956 edition of "Workmen's Compensation in Canada" published by the Department of Labour.

During 1956, provision was made in the four provinces of Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Quebec for an increase in the percentage rate of average earnings used in the computation of compensation payments. The rate was raised to 70 per cent in Nova Scotia and to 75 per cent in the other three provinces.

Maximum annual earnings on which compensation is payable were also increased in four provinces. In Manitoba, the increase was from \$3,000 to \$3,500; in Alberta, from \$3,000 to \$4,000; and in Ontario and Saskatchewan from \$4,000 to \$5,000. The minimum permanent total disability payment was raised from \$85 to \$100 a month in Nova Scotia. The Quebec Legislature provided for a reduction from seven to five days in the "waiting period".

The monthly allowance to a widow or invalid widower was raised from \$50 to \$60 in Alberta and Newfoundland. In the same two provinces payments allowed in respect of dependent children were increased. In both provinces the increases were made applicable to all widows and dependent children in receipt of compensation. In Nova Scotia, increases in the maximum monthly payment to a widow and children and to orphans, respectively, were provided for, making the maximum amount payable in each case \$150.

NEW FESTIVAL: The Acadian flag will fly gaily this year for Nova Scotia's newest event "The Festival of Clare" which will be held from August 8 to 15 in the St. Mary's Bay region, the Canadian Travel News Letter reports.

In the 32-mile stretch of the St. Mary's Bay coastline known as the French Shore, neat little villages border the sea. Tall spires of churches mark such Acadian towns as Meteghan, Saulnierville, Comeauville, Grosses Coques, Church Point and St. Bernard's. The people are descendants of the Acadians who returned to settle the region after their tragic expulsion from Nova Scotia in 1755.

The Acadians of Clare have kept alive their French customs and are confident this new annual event will rival in time the Gaelic Mod and Highland Games of the Scots of the province.

MORE ELECTRICITY USED: The growing use of electricity in Canada is illustrated by the sharp advance in the average kilowatt hours purchased per domestic and farm customer with the national average at 3,500 kilowatt hours for 1955 compared with 1,423 in 1939.

FARM PRODUCTION: Canada's index of the physical volume of agricultural production for 1956 (1935-39=100) stood at 165.3, only fractionally below 1952's record of 166.0, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. It was more than 10 per cent above the previous year's figure of 159.9.

The increase in total agricultural production in 1956 over 1955 is largely attributable to the larger grain crops harvested in the Prairie Provinces. Contributing also to the increase were larger outputs of livestock, dairy products, poultry, eggs, sugar beets, tobacco and maple products; in the case of livestock and dairy products the gain in production was very small. Offsetting these gains to some extent were lower outturns of potatoes, fruits and vegetables.

Increased total agricultural production took place in all provinces except the Maritimes and British Columbia. On a percentage basis the provincial gains ranged all the way from slightly over 2 per cent in Quebec and Ontario to nearly 33 per cent in Saskatchewan. Percentage reductions in output varied from nearly 5 per cent in British Columbia to more than 6 per cent in the Maritimes.

Provincial indexes for 1956: Prince Edward Island, 140.2 (150.0 in 1955); Nova Scotia, 87.1 (93.3); New Brunswick, 127.1 (135.9); Quebec, 147.0 (143.8); Ontario, 132.0 (128.6); Manitoba, 169.1 (127.3); Saskatchewan, 238.0 (206.7); Alberta, 166.7 (144.7); British Columbia, 125.2 (131.2).

MILITIA CAMPS: Plans are complete and final preparations are being made across the country for this year's summer camp training for some 21,000 men and women of the Militia, Army Headquarters announces.

Training will be in 21 camps and schools with men and women of all corps taking part, as the practical climax to their programme of evening and week-end work.

In the summer of 1956 a total of 20,830 Militia soldiers, members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps and nursing sisters of the Royal Canadian Army Women's Corps attended summer camps. In 1955 the figure was 20,568 and in 1954 it was 16,593.

Camps will be located at Halifax, York Redoubt and Aldershot, N.S.; Utopia and Gagetown, N.B.; St. Therese, Valcartier, St. Jean, Farnham and Montreal, Que.; Picton, Petawawa, Borden, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Kingston, Ont.; Shilo, Man.; Dundurn, Sask.; Wainwright, Alta.; Victoria, Albert Head and Victoria, B.C.

GASOLINE CONSUMPTION: According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics consumption of taxable gasoline used almost entirely for automotive purposes rose 10 per cent in 1955 to a record gallonage of 2,227,000,000 from 2,021,000,000 in 1954.