

1954 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: Almost 70 per cent of the total time loss arising from industrial disputes in Canada during 1954 occurred in the last four months of the year, according to a preliminary summary of strikes and lockouts for 1954 released Jan. 19 by the Minister of Labour.

Total time loss from industrial disputes in 1954 was 0.15 per cent of the estimated working time of non-agricultural wage and salary workers in Canada, as compared with 0.13 per cent during 1953.

Preliminary figures for 1954 showed 168 strikes and lockouts involving 61,477 workers with a time loss of 1,472,160 man-working days, as compared with 55,988 workers involved in 174 work stoppages with a time loss of 1,324,715 days in 1953. The peak year was 1946 when there were 228 strikes and lockouts involving 139,474 workers and a time loss of 4,516,393 man-working days.

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Value of products shipped by Canada's process cheese industry in 1953 reached an all-time high figure of \$27,271,000, up 7% from the preceding year's \$25,483,000. Material costs climbed to \$21,734,000 from \$20,347,000, employees to 1,070 from 1,050 and the salary and wage bill to \$3,064,000 from \$2,817,000.

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Department store sales in December rose 7.9% over the corresponding month of 1953, according to the Bureau's monthly preliminary release. All provinces shared in the advance except Saskatchewan where there was a decrease of 2.5%

CANADIAN PAINTINGS DISPLAY: Sponsored by the Ontario Government, one of the biggest exhibitions of Canadian paintings ever seen in Britain, including canvases owned by the Queen and Prime Minister Churchill, is being opened in London this week by Field Marshal Earl Alexander. It is being shown until February 4. The display comprises 142 paintings.

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RCAF CONFERENCE: Top ranking Air Force officers from Europe, Washington, D.C., and across Canada, gathered in Ottawa, January 18, for the annual Air Officer's Commanding Conference.

Under the chairmanship of the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal C. Roy Slemon, the group reviewed RCAF plans for the coming year and discussed major problems associated with these plans.

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A map showing the oil and gas fields of Saskatchewan and the Province's potential oil and gas areas has been published by the Geological Survey of Canada, the Minister of Mines has announced. Drawn on a scale of 20 miles to the inch, the new map also shows the oil fields of southwestern Manitoba where drilling during the past year has proved so successful.

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Gross value of production of Canada's rubber products industry rose in 1953 to \$290,735,000 from \$286,655,000 in the preceding year but declined 6.7% from all-time high \$311,678,000 in 1951, according to the Bureau's annual industry report.

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