

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES

Consumer price indexes rose in all 10 regional cities during September and October 1960, with increases ranging from a fractional 0.1 per cent in Saskatoon-Regina to 1.1 per cent both in Montreal and Toronto.

Changes in the food indexes, largely seasonal in nature, followed patterns similar to those shown in the total indexes, with city food indexes up in all 10 cities. Increases ranged from 0.3 per cent in Saskatoon-Regina to 3.1 per cent both in Ottawa and Toronto.

Other group indexes showed more varied results. Shelter indexes were unchanged in three cities, down in three and up in the remaining four. Clothing indexes were up in seven cities, lower in one and unchanged in two. Household-operation indexes were higher in four cities, lower in three and unchanged in the remaining three. The indexes for "other" commodities and services were unchanged in seven of the 10 regional cities and higher in the other three.

### MORE TRAINING FOR UNEMPLOYED

Plans are being made in every province in Canada to undertake or expand training for unemployed workers. This was revealed during the thirty-first meeting of the Vocational Training Advisory Council, which ended its two-day session in Ottawa on November 4.

Training for unemployed workers is provided under the terms of Schedule M, part of the Federal-Provincial Training Agreements. Recently the Federal Government agreed to pay 75 per cent of the costs of training, provided the number of training days *per annum* exceeded 7 per cent of the adult population of the province concerned.

The members of the Council agreed that, although increased training was not the complete answer to the problem of unemployment, it could go a long way toward alleviating the problem.

### MINISTER ADDRESSES MEETING

Mr. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour, said he was pleased with the response of the provinces to the changes made in Schedule M. He said a number of provinces had indicated they were doubling their programmes and said that one province planned to increase its training of the unemployed by 400 per cent.

Mr. Starr said that reference had often been made to the lack of facilities in some of the provinces to accommodate training programmes. He added that, to overcome these deficiencies, it might be necessary to launch a programme of accelerated construction.

The Minister referred to the school "drop-out" problem, and observed that hundreds of boys and girls were leaving school without sufficient education or training to meet the requirements of industry. Coupled with this,

he said, were such factors as the movement over the past 10 years of some 400,000 persons from farm jobs to industry. He suggested that a programme to encourage children to stay in school and a broad programme of training would help to fit these people better for gainful employment.

Stressing the need for training, Mr. Starr said that, while registrations were on the increase at National Employment Offices, there were large numbers of unfilled job vacancies because people did not have the necessary skills to fill them.

### CALL FOR NATIONAL MEETING

After hearing a report on the training of technicians, Council members agreed it was time steps were taken to establish or identify levels of certification on which training could be based, and perhaps to adopt common terminology to describe technician training.

It was stated that a number of organizations were certifying technicians and developing their own levels of training as well as different names and designations for the technicians who reached these levels.

The members approved a resolution requesting that the Department of Labour call an early conference of all interested organizations. No date was suggested, however. In the meantime, a committee of Council was appointed to discuss the problem and to bring recommendations back to the next Council, which will meet in April, 1961.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FIRST CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, has announced the appointment of Mr. John Harrison Cleveland, at present head of the United States Division of the Department of External Affairs, as Canada's first resident Ambassador to Finland.

From 1949 to 1959, the Canadian Ambassador to Sweden was simultaneously accredited as Minister to Finland. Since 1959 the Canadian mission in Finland has been under the direction of a chargé d'affaires pending the appointment of a resident ambassador, the mission having been elevated to the status of embassy earlier this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

### COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

The Prime Minister's Office, on behalf of the Royal Commission on Government Organization, recently announced the appointment of four senior members to the staff of the Commission.

The appointments and offices are: Executive Director: Ronald S. Ritchie of Toronto; Director of Research: F.A. Milligan of Ottawa; Editorial Director: Professor J.E. Hodgetts of Kingston; Executive Secretary: R.J. Grenier of Montreal.

(Continued on P. 3)