

slightly lower than the 723,799 which was recorded during the ten years between 1941 and 1951.

The natural growth of a population is the best indication of its physiological vitality. The rate of natural growth of our population was 16.5, per thousand, in 1941 and in 1956 it had risen to 22.1, an increase of 5.6.

Reflecting the movement toward intensive industrialization, the urban population is increasing much more rapidly than the rural population. In 1941, the urban population represented 63.3 per cent of the total population whereas in 1951 it was equivalent to 67.3 per cent and in 1956 it had reached 70.0 per cent.

The population of the Province of Quebec is younger than that of Canada as a whole. While, at the time of the 1956 Census, the Canadian population comprised 32.4 per cent in the 0 to 14 age-group, 48.1 per cent between 15 and 49 years of age and 19.5 per cent aged 50 or over, the respective percentages in Quebec were 35 per cent, 48.8 per cent and 16.2 per cent. These figures strikingly illustrate one of the progressive and energetic characteristics of the Province. A youthful population means a greater number of workers available on the labour market and ready to meet the future demands of expanding industry.

Another indication of the vitality of the domestic market can be seen in the rapid and constant increase in personal income and of salaries and wages. From present trends, it is estimated that personal income will reach something like \$6 billion by the end of 1957, in comparison with \$5,463,000,000 in 1956 and \$2,200,000,000 in 1945. The steady increase in the active population together with the rise in salaries and wages combined to bring the earnings of the labour force up to \$4 billion in 1957, from the \$3,731,000,000 they had been in 1956. The net income from agriculture and other unincorporated business amounted to approximately \$850,000,000 against \$765,000,000 in 1956; interest, dividends and net rental income of persons was around \$550,000,000 in comparison with \$516,000,000 in 1956.

The index number of employment went from 124.3 at July 1, 1956, to 125 at July 1, 1957, which can be compared with 110.8, the average index number for the years 1950 to 1956. It is also worth noting that average weekly work hours in the manufacturing industries dropped from 46 hours in 1945 to 42.3 hours in 1956 and to 41.3 hours at June 1st, 1957.

Retail sales, reflecting the high standard of living of the Province's population, in 1956 showed an increase of 10.5 per cent over the 1955 figure and reached \$3,322,000,000. In 1945, retail sales amounted to \$1,080,800,000 which means that since then there has been a 207 per cent increase. The increase for the January to October period of 1957 compared to the corresponding months of 1956, shows a rise of 3.7 per cent.

Within the context of the phenomenal evolution of the Province's economy, the year 1957 marks a new peak. Since 1945, every sector of Quebec's economy has recorded a sharply upward trend; during 1957 there was some slowing down of this rising movement, but on the whole the situation remained prosperous and new peaks were again attained.

The preliminary estimate of the value of Quebec's total industrial production is fixed at nearly \$10 billion for 1957, compared to \$9,552,600,000 in 1956. In relation to the average for the period 1950-1956, which was \$7,827,500,000, it indicates an increase of more than two billion dollars.

Few regions in the world are undergoing as intensive and rapid development as the Province of Quebec. Since 1945 the gross value of its total production has increased by 193 per cent and the gross value of mineral production has multiplied by four. All these developments are only the beginning of a new industrial era.

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CHAMPLAIN STAMP

The Post Office Department has announced details of the new postage stamp to be issued on June 26, 1958, to mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of Quebec by Samuel de Champlain.

While the first white man to visit the site of the present day City of Quebec was Jacques Cartier, the French navigator in 1535, it was not until July 1608, that the first permanent white habitation was established by Champlain, who also gave the settlement its present name.

The new stamp will be of the large size, horizontal format and printed in two colors, green and brown. It will be of the five cent denomination.

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DEW LINE SUPPLY

The Department of Transport this Summer will carry out the annual supply operation to DEW Line sites in the Foxe Basin area of the Canadian Arctic, taking on a task that in past years has been handled by the United States Government.

It will carry approximately 16,000 tons of goods and fuel in four chartered vessels, two of them dry cargo ships and two tankers. These ships, on entering the Foxe Basin area on the west side of Baffin Island, will be met by the Department of Transport icebreakers C.G.S. "Montcalm" and C.G.S. "Labrador", which will escort them through ice, if necessary, to reach the DEW Line sites.

The convoy is expected to make the trip in the latter part of August or early September, movements being subject to weather and ice conditions. Approximately 10 ship-to-shore dry cargo and bulk fuel units will be used in putting the cargo ashore.