

SMALL-BUSINESS TRAINING PLAN

A new joint federal-provincial venture, of interest to Canada's 400,000 small businessmen, the National Small Business Management Training School, opened recently at Carleton University, Ottawa. Officiating at the opening ceremonies were James A. Roberts, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, and George V. Haythorne, Deputy Minister of Labour.

Representatives of seven Canadian provinces will attend the three-month school to study the kinds of training needed by small-business owners and operators and the means of organizing such training at the community level. The course is also being attended by representatives of French and Belgian productivity centres and of a Canadian trade association.

RECRUITING INSTRUCTORS

At the conclusion of the school, the provincial representatives will be responsible for recruiting qualified instructors from the rank of business and professional men in local communities of their provinces, and providing them with training materials and guidance in course leadership.

Financial assistance for the payment of instructors will be supplied under the terms of the Federal-Provincial Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Agreements. Training materials for all courses are being prepared by the Small Business Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce.

OBJECT OF PLAN

The aim of this programme is to provide opportunities for groups of small-business owners and managers to discuss the fundamentals of sound management in sessions led by instructors with experience in the subjects under discussion. Courses will comprise eight to 12 sessions, their subjects including staffing, buying, selling, record-keeping and management-accounting. These will be scheduled and located to suit the circumstances of the participating groups.

It is planned to have instructors given sufficient training material to conduct courses with little or no additional assistance, which will enable the provincial governments to offer courses in many communities simultaneously without establishing full-time teaching staffs.

It is expected that enrolment for these courses, to start this fall, will be promoted at the local level by business leaders, service organizations and associations, in co-operation with provincial departments of education and trade.

IRON ORE

Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines increased sharply in February, to 710,077 tons from 522,718 a year earlier, and in the January-February period to 1,461,828 tons from 984,244 in the like span of 1962. Iron ore shipped for export advanced in February to 555,619 tons from 401,429 a year earlier and in the January-February period to 1,061,819 tons from 744,512 a year ago, while shipments to Canadian consumers climbed in the month

to 154,458 tons from 121,289 and in the two months to 400,009 tons from 239,732.

February shipments of iron ore were larger than a year earlier in all producing regions except Newfoundland. Totals were: Newfoundland, 41,776 tons (111,317 in February 1962); Quebec, 401,066 (233,557); Ontario, 112,512 (81,393); and Alberta and British Columbia, 154,723 (96,451).

ONTARIO PORTABLE PENSIONS

Premier John Robarts of Ontario has introduced into the Legislature the government's portable-pensions legislation, which is to be known as the Pension Benefits Act. The bill reflects the result of a three-year study by the Ontario Committee on Portable Pensions, which was set up in April 1960. An earlier version of the Pension Act was introduced in 1962 for discussion purposes. A series of public hearings was held between sessions, at which time comments and criticisms from interested organizations and individuals were heard. The committee and the government have since revised the bill to meet some of the earlier criticisms.

The effect of the bill is to require all employers with 15 or more employees in Ontario to establish at least a minimum pension plan by January 1, 1965. Those employers already having pension plans would be required to amend them if necessary in order to bring them up to at least minimum standards. The standards, the cost of which may be shared by employers and employees, require that each plan provide at least a minimum level of benefit which must be retained to provide a pension for the employee. Employees aged 30 or over who work for at least 18 months and who change jobs will not be permitted to withdraw their contributions to the minimum benefit in cash. The minimum pension benefits are based on contributions related to a maximum \$4,800 annual salary and are expressed in terms of the three most common types of pension plans. For the "unit benefit" type of plan the pension on retirement must be at least one half of 1 per cent of salary multiplied by years of service. For "money purchase" plans the benefits are based on the accumulation of at least 1½ per cent of salary for employees age 30-44, 2 per cent for employees age 45-54, and 3 per cent for those aged 55 and over. The minimum may also be expressed in terms of "flat benefit" pension of \$2 for each year of service.

U.S. NAVY CHIEF VISITS OTTAWA

Admiral George W. Anderson, Jr., Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy, will pay a two-day visit to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa on May 9 and 10. He will confer with the Minister of National Defence, the Chairman and members of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, the Chief of the Naval Staff and members of the Naval Board.

Admiral Anderson comes to Ottawa at the invitation of Vice-Admiral H.S. Rayner, Chief of the Naval Staff. Vice-Admiral Rayner visited Washington, D.C., in March 1961, at the invitation of the then CNO, Admiral Arleigh Burke.