

culture, forestry, fishing and construction), \$106 (\$98). Trades with smaller profits before taxes: mining, quarrying and oil wells, \$213 (\$273); and wholesale trade, \$245 (\$263). Profits before taxes were unchanged in service at \$62 million.

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ARCTIC SUPPLY PROJECT

More than 80,000 tons of supplies will be taken to far northern ports of call in the Department of Transport's annual Arctic supply operations. This year's undertaking will be carried out by a fleet of 13 departmental vessels, including powerful icebreakers and special supply ships, and 20 chartered freighters and tankers. In addition, more than 130 landing craft will be used to get the vast quantities of cargo ashore at points that almost without exception have no docking or cargo handling facilities of any kind.

The Transport Department convoys will operate from Quebec to Hudson Strait, Hudson Bay, Foxe Basin, Baffin Island DEW Line sites north of the Arctic Circle, and up the East coast of Baffin Island to Cornwallis and Ellesmere islands, with supplies destined for the remote Canadian-U.S. Weather Stations.

The Department's most powerful icebreaker, C.G.S. "d'Iberville", will leave the main northern convoy at Resolute, on Cornwallis Island, sail to Eureka, only 750 miles from the North Pole, with a full year's supplies for that weather station. Cargo for Alert, 500 miles from the Pole, will be taken by C.G.S. "Labrador" and a chartered cargo vessel to Thule, Greenland, and will be flown from there to its destination at the northernmost tip of Ellesmere Island.

In addition to the regular crews of the ships, more than 1,050 men will be taken north by air and by sea to help get ashore the shiploads of supplies, including vast quantities of bulk and drummed fuel oil, diesel oil and gasoline. Their task will not be easy for many of the Arctic unloading points are beset by drifting ice, even in August, and in the more northerly regions the shipping routes may be covered at points with icefields, miles in extent and up to 10 feet thick.

The ships taking part in the Transport Department operations have to carry all necessary equipment for landing their cargoes. In many instances, particularly where the design and equipment of barges and landing craft are concerned, the department's wealth of experience in Arctic operations has brought about the development of hulls and machinery specially suited to Arctic work.

First ship to go north will be C.G.S. "Labrador", which leaves Montreal on June 25. On June 27, C.G.S. "C.D. Howe" and the icebreaker C.G.S. "N.B. McLean" will head northward, the former with 30 ports of call to make. The remaining ships will leave within the following three weeks.

Specially designed as an Arctic supply ship, and with a reinforced hull to permit her to work to some extent in ice, C.G.S. "C.D. Howe" does the main freighting to Eskimo villages and trading posts of the Hudson Bay region and the Baffin coast. She also carries missionaries, traders, R.C.M.P. officers and representatives of the federal departments of Health and Welfare, and Northern Affairs and National Resources, who administer the law, and care for health and welfare of Eskimos and other residents of the Far North.

Four of the Department's ships carry helicopters used in ship-to-shore operations and in ice reconnaissance. The latter job is of vital importance in speeding up operations when ice fields are extensive.

In preparation for the northern supply project, the Department of Transport's ship captains scheduled for Arctic voyages have just completed meetings in Ottawa to co-ordinate their summer plans.

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EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Employment increased substantially during the month ended April 18, 1959, according to the monthly joint news release by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. An estimated 5,664,000 persons had jobs at mid-month, 112,000 more than in the previous month and 127,000 more than in April 1958. The increase of 112,000 over the month was significantly greater than the normal seasonal increase for April.

Unemployment in April showed a marked decline. An estimated 445,000 persons were without jobs and seeking work, a decrease of 80,000 over the month and 77,000 over the year. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work was 7.3 per cent of the labour force, compared to 8.6 per cent in the previous month and 8.6 per cent in April 1958. Those on temporary layoff numbered 22,000, compared to 32,000 a year before. The number of persons on short-time work was about the same as last year.

Spring work in agriculture began early this year, with a correspondingly early rise in farm employment. Consequently, additions to the farm work force in April were smaller than in past years. This was particularly true of the Prairie Provinces where alternative job opportunities were somewhat more plentiful than in other parts of the country. An estimated 661,000 persons were engaged in farm work during April, 30,000 fewer than a year before.

Non-agricultural employment rose by 70,000 during the month, about double the average increase during April. All regions shared in the general upswing, with marked gains in the Atlantic and Prairie regions where the early spring advanced the start of many non-farm activities.