

initiated a war against anyone. We are, in fact, not a warlike people, though we can fight if we have to. Our present effort is a defence effort only. It is an effort which we are making in the hope that it will contribute to the joint strength of the NATO nations whose only aim is peace."

The Minister mentioned that on his trip to Germany last fall he had been impressed by the close and friendly relations existing between Canadian troops and their families and the German people, and proceeded:

"It seems to me that all of us might derive a lesson from that example. If we could only establish with the Russian people as individuals such personal contact and understanding as our soldiers and their families in Germany have established with the German people, perhaps the prospect of war might rapidly fade. Probably history will record as the greatest of all the crimes which the Russian dictatorship has perpetrated against humanity the forced isolation of its people from contact with the rest of the world. Perhaps one day this monstrous imprisonment of a whole people can be overcome. If it is ever possible to overcome that imprisonment, I believe that the fear of war might rapidly abate.

"In the meantime, the maintenance of peace is dependent on the continuing build-up of effective military strength of the free nations. We must become so strong collectively that no one will attack us. That is the goal of NATO. What the 14 nations which comprise NATO - and we hope the admission of Western Germany will soon make it 15 - could not hope to do individually, we can, I believe, accomplish by determined collective effort."

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3,595,000 FAMILIES: There was a bigger rise in the number of families than in the number of households in Canada in the 12 months to June 1 last year, but in the two years from June 1, 1952 the number of households showed a larger increase, according to the annual estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The average size of households was smaller last year than in the two previous years, while the average size of families was the same as in 1952 and 1951 after a rise in 1953.

Canadian families were estimated at 3,595,000 at June 1 last year, an increase of 118,000 or 3.4% since the start of June 1953 and 182,000 or 5.3% since the same date in 1952. The average family size was 3.7 persons as compared with 3.8 persons in 1953 and 3.7 persons in both 1952 and 1951.

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Alberta ranked second to Ontario in value of mineral production for the first time in 1954. In the two previous years it placed third after Quebec, and in 1951 it was in fourth place behind British Columbia.

DECEMBER DEFICIT: Budgetary revenues for December were \$363.6 million or \$15.5 million less than for December, 1953 while budgetary expenditures totalled \$409.6 million or \$4.2 million less than last year. Consequently, the budgetary deficit of \$46 million was \$11.3 million greater than that for December, 1953, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Walter Harris, announced on January 29 in his monthly statement.

For the first nine months of the current fiscal year, budgetary revenues were \$2,973.3 million, expenditures were \$2,927.6 million and the budgetary surplus was \$45.7 million. For the same period in 1953, budgetary revenues were \$3,168.6 million, budgetary expenditures were \$2,928.2 million and the surplus was \$240.4 million.

Operations of the old age security fund, which are not included in budgetary transactions, resulted in a deficit of \$7.6 million for December and a cumulative deficit of \$48 million for the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

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EMPLOYMENT DOWN: Employment in the major non-agricultural industries showed a further decline at December 1 when the Bureau's advance index stood at 112.6 versus 113.0 a month earlier and 114.1 a year ago. Expenditures in weekly payrolls fell 0.6% in the month but were 0.9% above 1953. The advance figure of per capita weekly wages and salaries, at \$59.62, though slightly below the all-time maximum of \$59.78 of November 1, was the highest in the record for December 1.

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UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS UP: Ordinary or regular benefit claimants on the live unemployment register numbered 400,830 on December 31 against 274,462 a month earlier and 372,363 on the same date in 1953, according to the Bureau's monthly report on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act. In addition, supplementary benefit claimants numbered 30,940 at the end of last December as against 18,670 a year earlier.

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WHEAT SUPPLIES: Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on January 12 totalled 358,465,000 bushels, down 5.6% from last year's corresponding total of 379,644,000. Prairie farmers increased their deliveries of wheat during the week to 8,656,000 bushels from 5,739,000 a year earlier, while overseas export clearances rose to 3,842,000 bushels from 3,194,000.

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There were an estimated 3,785,000 non-institutional households in Canada at the start of June last year, 110,000 or 3% more than on the same date in 1953.