

of August. The annual transfer of workers to the United States now is beginning in Eastern areas.

The current dispute in the meat-packing industry is the first major strike this year with Dominion-wide repercussions--in marked contrast to the stormy situation in 1946.

RECORD BY REGIONS

In the Maritime region there were 14,000 unplaced applicants and 5,000 unfilled vacancies at September 11. The employment situation has remained fairly stable during the past month. No marked decline in unplaced applicants was evident, since this region's unemployment problem is not merely seasonal, but chronic. The movement of unemployed persons to factories in Ontario and Quebec continued. In Halifax and Fredericton, industrial activity is at a satisfactory level--in Fredericton labour is decidedly scarce but lack of housing prevents workers from moving to the area. Heavy manufacturing industries in New Glasgow have enough orders on hand to sustain production well into next year. Farm labour demand is not insistent, though in some districts competition with construction has caused a slight scarcity. Logging activity should begin soon. Construction work is on such a large scale that it frequently outruns its supplies, and delays result; cement is the chief shortage.

In the Quebec region there were 23,000 unplaced applicants and 32,000 unfilled vacancies at September 11. Unemployment generally is at a very low ebb--in fact, not enough workers are available to meet demands. In many areas, and in many industries, acute shortages of labour have developed. There are few industries which have not increased operations appreciably in the past year. Consumer spending has been well sustained at a level high enough to absorb the expanding output of goods. The cancellation of some United Kingdom orders has affected employment slightly, but not seriously in any field. The farm labour situation is very satisfactory; in September about 5,500 workers will be sent to the United States to harvest American crops. General logging activity has started and the outlook for adequate labour this season is hopeful. Hard rock miners and mine beginners are in great demand; prospecting and developmental work is making good progress. Construction work continues at a peak level, despite acute shortages of skilled men and materials; residential construction is showing signs of renewed activity.

In the Ontario region there were 22,000 unplaced applicants and 55,000 unfilled vacancies at September 11. Jobs, therefore, outnumber applicants by two to one. Seasonal activity, now that harvesting, food processing, and construction are in full swing, accounts for much of the current labour demand; even so, all indications point to a continuing high level of employment during the winter. Manufacturing industries need workers badly. Iron and steel firms, with heavy backlogs of order,

register steady demand; labour turnover is a problem, as are material bottlenecks in some cases. Textile, rubber, and food processing companies are extremely short of workers. Students going back to school have left many vacancies for unskilled labourers, particularly in construction and agriculture. The scarcity of skilled construction tradesmen is acute. Farm labour is not plentiful; over 1,500 workers have been sent to help with the Prairie harvest, and about 300 more will be needed.

PRAIRIES AND PACIFIC

In the Prairie Region there were 12,000 unplaced applicants and 18,000 unfilled vacancies at September 11. Employment conditions are very buoyant and the upswing should reach its peak next month. A serious shortage of harvest workers appeared to be developing recently, but the situation is again under control. The Ontario harvest was late, which delayed the transfer of eastern workers to the Prairie region--where crop had ripened earlier than expected. Grain handling activity will begin soon at the Lakehead. Industrial unrest has blocked operations in the meat packing industry. Mining companies still require skilled men; placements are easier, however, where housing projects have been built, and labour turnover is less. The logging industry is absorbing the workers brought recently from European camps for displaced persons. Construction progress has been held up by the scarcity of skilled workers--carpenters, plasterers and bricklayers--and by the limited amount of supply shipments. Most contractors are speeding up work, so that their buildings will be "housed in" before winter comes.

In the Pacific region there were 13,000 unplaced applicants and 7,000 unfilled vacancies at September 11. Primary industries--agriculture, logging and mining--are at peak activity and need workers urgently. This situation brings into sharp focus the chief problem of this region, decentralization of the labour force. Employment is available for all workers who are physically fit and willing to leave the metropolitan area. Students returning to school and university will leave a large gap in primary industry employment. Wages in the logging industry now are the highest in British Columbia--the new 1947-48 agreement has been signed in all three forest areas. The mining industry reports no change in its labour picture--major expansion is held up by the lack of workers. The farm labour situation has been well in hand, but demands are increasing as tree fruits ripen. Construction workers are in heavy demand; the new projects scheduled for the coming months should maintain the full employment of all skilled men.

HIGHER PRICE FOR STEEL SCRAP: The Wartime Prices and Trade Board announces that on the recommendation of the Steel Controller in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, prices

of steel scrap have been advanced by approximately \$5.00 per gross ton, effective Sept. 23.

Included in this adjustment is a number of changes in the dealers' allowances for the preparation of charging box size of heavy melting steel scrap as well as the maximum commissions they are permitted to charge.

For Ontario and Quebec mixed steel scrap prices have been increased to \$19.00 per gross ton at basing points, Hamilton and Montreal. All other classifications have been advanced \$4.50 per gross ton and preparation allowance for No. 1 Heavy Melting is now \$3.00 per gross ton. Dealers' commission has advanced from fifty cents to a total of one dollar.

In the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia mixed steel scrap has increased \$3.00 per net ton with a new preparation allowance of \$3.00 per net ton for No. 1 Heavy Melting and \$2.00 for No. 2 Heavy Melting. All other grades have advanced \$4.25 per net ton.

Electric furnace classification has been eliminated entirely and all authorizations for special electric size are withdrawn.

As steel scrap is a basic material required in the production of steel products this move is designed to increase the flow of this commodity to the mills.

CHIEF JUSTICE HONOURED: The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, announces that it had been learned from the United Kingdom Government that the King had been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of the Hon. Thibaudau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, to be a member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council for the United Kingdom.

FRENCH SOLIDARITY TAX

LIABILITY OF CANADIAN NATIONALS: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, announces that arrangements had recently been concluded with the French authorities defining the liability of Canadian nationals and Canadian corporations and their subsidiaries in France to the French National Solidarity Tax. This tax was imposed on French and foreign nationals by a French ordinance of August 15, 1945. It is a tax on capital and capital gains (enrichment) between June 1, 1940 and June 4, 1945. Companies who own assets in France are subject to the capital tax on the value of such assets as of June 4, 1945. Individuals are subject to the capital tax and the capital gains tax.

The arrangements concluded with the French authorities provide for the exemption of certain categories of Canadian assets in France from the imposition of the tax. Funds brought into France after the liberation and before June 4, 1945 shall not be subject to the capital gains tax. Assets owned by Canadian nationals which accumulated in France before

or during the war and which have the character of normal payments on international current account and do not represent transfers of capital are exempt from both the capital and capital gains tax. Canadians subject to the tax are entitled to deductions for debts contracted and payable in France or elsewhere under conditions as described in the French taxing ordinance.

Canadian nationals who may have already made Solidarity Tax declarations (returns) may amend such declarations and have refunded such portions of instalments of any tax paid to which they are entitled under the terms of the new arrangements.

Because of the modifications which may have to be introduced into the tax declarations of Canadian Nationals subject to the tax, the French authorities have agreed to remit, as far as possible, penalties which might be incurred by Canadians for late declaration or non-declaration as laid down in the French taxing ordinance.

Canadians who are subject to the tax and have not completed their declarations are advised to do so forthwith to avoid incurring penalties. Declaration forms and explanatory pamphlets can be obtained at the French consular offices in Quebec, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Completed returns should be addressed either to the French consular office nearest the declarant's residence or direct to the Direction de l'Enregistrement, Premier Bureau des Successions, Place St. Sulpice, Paris.

SEA FISH LANDINGS

STATISTICS FOR AUGUST: Landings of sea fish on the Atlantic Coast during August totalled 84.5 million pounds -- less than 70 per cent of the total for August last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Lower catches were reported for most of the major seasonal phases of the industry, and are attributed in part to the fact that fish buyers have been less active in certain areas as a result of the weakening market situation. Cod landings were only 56 per cent, herring landings (including sardines) less than 80 per cent, and swordfish landings about 42 per cent of the 1946 figures.

On the Pacific Coast the picture is quite different. Landings of 50 million pounds were substantially above those of August, 1946. Halibut landings were more than 75 per cent, and salmon nearly 20 per cent greater than last year.

The diversion of the catch to salted products in the ground fishery of the Atlantic Coast continues. To date 57.8 per cent of the cod catch has been utilized for salting, as compared with 37.4 per cent for last year. A further development is the increased proportion of the sardine herring catch that is being used for canning: 60.1 per cent this year, 37.5 per cent last year, and 38.5 per