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Finds Canada Had "Good Year": The Minister of Labour, on June 18, issued a summary of the Eighth Annual Report of the Unemployment Insurance Commission for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1949.

Canada has had a "good year", the Minister reports. It was featured by industrial growth and record high employment. With the total labour force at an all-time high of 5,109,000 in September, 1948, 5,042,000 workers were employed. There were of course seasonal contractions, but at no time was there any serious widespread unemployment.

Employers notified the offices of 1,149,707 vacancies or opportunities for employment and all but a very small percentage of the vacancies were filled. The few which went unfilled were for special classes or registered during times when men were in short supply. A number of large organizations have informed the Unemployment Insurance Commission, and the public, that they now do their entire hiring through the Employment Service.

During periods of greatest seasonal contraction occurring in the past year, the total number of unplaced applicants registered in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission was slightly in excess of four per cent of the labour force. While in some areas of the Maritime Provinces and in British Columbia the number of persons seasonally out of work was higher than in other districts, it may be said that all sections of the country and all industries shared in the general prosperity.

Employment in building and construction reached a record high point.

During the year a total of 50,610 displaced persons were admitted to Canada. Of this number 20,434 were selected overseas by representatives of the Department of Labour and placed in employment by the National Employment Service. This group included some 6,500 domestics and household workers and approximately 4,000 persons for agricultural employment. The remaining 30,176 displaced persons who entered Canada during the year came as close relatives of residents of Canada or were admitted on the nomination of employers. A substantial proportion of this group were employable people who were placed in employment through the National Employment Service. In addition 500 skilled workers from Malta were admitted for specified employment.

During the fiscal year more than 40,000 British emigrants came to Canada. Many of them, without special trade skill, were eager to find a new life in agriculture or through employment in Canada's mines and forests. Among the new arrivals, however, were also technical and professional workers and many skilled craftsmen and artisans whose training and experience assured them a welcome in Canadian industry.

Wholesale Sales Up: Dollar volume of wholesale sales advanced slightly less than two per cent in April over the same month last year, following a gain of seven per cent in March, an increase of one per cent in February, and a slight decline in January. Cumulative figures for the first four months of this year stand 2.7 per cent above the similar period of 1948.

According to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics, the general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 290.3 in April, 283.4 in March, and 285.4 in April last year.

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