

**WAGES AT NEW PEAK:** Average weekly wages in Canadian manufacturing industries at the beginning of December climbed to an all-time high figure of \$58.17 from \$58.03 a month earlier and \$57.02 a year ago, according to advance figures. Average hourly earnings rose to 141.2 cents from 140.5 cents at the beginning of November and 138.4 cents at the same time last year. The work-week averaged 41.2 hours, slightly shorter than the 41.3 of a month earlier but unchanged from 1953.

Longer hours in aircraft plants and the release of the lower-paid workers in shipyards and sawmills helped to raise the levels of earnings in the durable manufactured goods category which continued to be affected by industrial disputes.

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**CHAIN STORE SALES UP:** Grocery and combination chain stores had a substantial sales gain of 12% in the full year 1954 as compared with 1953. Variety chain sales rose 2.9% and women's clothing stores 2.2%, but hardware chain sales fell 3.7%, shoe stores 1.7% and drug stores 0.6%.

Sales of grocery and combination stores in the year aggregated \$865,947,000 versus \$773,220,000 in 1953.

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**HARBOUR TONNAGE DOWN:** Total cargo tonnage received at and shipped from the eight harbours administered by the National Harbours Board decreased by 4 per cent in 1954, as compared with the previous year, according to figures released by the Transport Minister. The figures were 40,890,000 tons for 1954, as against 42,500,000 tons in 1953. The chief factor in the decrease was a lower volume of grain traffic.

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**FOOD COSTS RECEDE:** The Consumer Price Index receded 0.2 per cent from 116.6 to 116.4 between December 1 and January 3. The decrease was due entirely to a drop in foods as the index for this series changed from 112.6 to 112.1. Shelter, the only other group to change, advanced from 128.2 to 128.4 reflecting increases in both rent and home-ownership.

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Industries in the leather products group shipped \$222,410,000 worth of products in 1953, a rise of 1.4% from the 1952 value of \$219,201,000.

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Lake Superior, 31,820 square miles in area, is the largest body of fresh water in the world.

**CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW ORLEANS:** The Department of External Affairs and the Department of Trade and Commerce announced on February 17 that the Consulate in New Orleans has been raised to a Consulate General and that the present Consul and Trade Commissioner, Mr. Gerald A. Newman, has been appointed Consul General.

Mr. Newman was born in Leamington, Ontario, on November 2, 1905, and is a graduate of the University of Manitoba. He has been a member of the Foreign Trade Service of the Department of Trade and Commerce since 1929 and has served in Liverpool, London, New York, Port-of-Spain and Ottawa. He has been Consul and Trade Commissioner in New Orleans since January, 1952.

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**"QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOLARSHIP":** Canadians interested in the field of nursery education will soon have an opportunity to compete for a new scholarship at one of America's pioneer nursery education schools, it was announced on February 16, by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Martin said that the scholarship, entitled the "Queen Elizabeth Scholarship", was offered by the Nursery Training School of Boston, which is affiliated with Tufts College. The offer was made at the time of the Coronation and Her Majesty has graciously accepted on behalf of her Canadian subjects. The scholarship provides for a year's training for one candidate each year at the school.

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**CARIBBEAN CRUISE:** Five minesweepers of the Royal Canadian Navy's Atlantic Command will sail from Halifax next month for a seven-week training cruise in the Caribbean area.

They are HMC Ships, Gaspe, Ungava, Trinity and Resolute, comprising the First Canadian Minesweeping Squadron, and HMCS Quinte, training tender to the Halifax Naval division, HMCS Scotian.

It will be the first long-range cruise for any of the new minesweepers.

The ships will sail from Halifax, March 11 and return May 1.

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A study of non-farm family incomes shows that 1.8% were over \$10,000 in 1951, 14.2% were over \$5,000, 23.8% were over \$4,000, 42.4% were over \$3,000, 66.3% were over \$2,000, 84.1% over \$1,000, and 15.9% under \$1,000.

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The Hartland Bridge in New Brunswick is the largest covered bridge in the world, nearly 1,300 feet long.