

VISIT OF LESOTHO CHIEF

Chief Leabua Jonathan, Prime Minister of Lesotho, visited Canada recently as a guest of the Canadian Government. While in Ottawa, he discussed matters of mutual interest with the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and officials of the Canadian International Development Agency (formerly the External Aid Office).

Chief Jonathan and his party paid an official visit to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, after which he spent a day in Montreal as a private guest of members of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, OXFAM and other Canadian friends of Lesotho.

LABOUR FORCE

From August to September unemployment in Canada dropped by 57,000 to 262,000, which was well above the average decrease from August to September in the past five years.

Employment decreased by 256,000 to 7,709,000 during the same period, a normal decline for this time of year. The labour force declined by 313,000 during the period to 7,971,000 as large numbers of teenagers withdrew from the labour market and returned to school.

From August to September, the decrease in employment of persons 14 to 24 years of age amounted to 382,000, while employment of persons 25 years of age and over increased by 126,000.

Compared to the figure recorded a year ago, the labour force showed an increase of 241,000, or 3.1 per cent. Employment was up by 198,000 and unemployment by 43,000.

EMPLOYMENT

During the month, farm employment showed a decline of 48,000. The decrease of 208,000 in non-farm employment was shared by trade (59,000), construction (33,000), public administration (32,000), manufacturing (30,000), transportation, communication and other utilities (20,000) and finance, insurance and real estate (18,000).

From September 1967 to September 1968, farm employment decreased by 30,000. Non-farm employment increased by 228,000 over the same period, the largest increase being in community, business and personal services (125,000). Smaller gains occurred in manufacturing (56,000), trade (32,000) and public administration (15,000). Employment in construction showed a decrease of 14,000.

Employment was higher this year in all regions. The largest relative advance took place in the Prairies (3.9 per cent). Ontario followed with 3.5 per

cent, British Columbia with 2.4 per cent and the Atlantic region and Quebec with 1.3 per cent.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The unusually large decline in unemployment of 57,000 from August to September compares to an average decrease of 27,000 for the same period in the preceeding five years. The number of unemployed teenagers dropped by 24,000. Total unemployment at 262,000 was 43,000 higher than it was a year ago.

Of the 262,000 unemployed in September, some 36 per cent had been unemployed for less than one month, 35 per cent for one to three months and 29 per cent for four months and over.

Unemployment in September 1968 represented 3.3 per cent of the labour force, compared to 2.8 per cent in September 1967 and 2.7 per cent in September 1966. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in September 1968 was 4.8 per cent.

WEATHER WISE

The coldest temperature ever recorded in Canada was 81 degrees below in Snag, Yukon Territory, on February 3, 1947. The hottest day occurred on July 5, 1937, with 113 degrees recorded at both Midale and Yellow Grass in Saskatchewan. Surprisingly, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, receives an average annual total snowfall of 113 inches compared to 70.8 inches in Halifax, 82 inches in Ottawa, and 28.8 inches in Regina.

Clayoquot in British Columbia, has an average of 106.37 inches of precipitation a year compared to Toronto's average of 32.18. Arctic Bay, in the Northwest Territories, has only 6.81 inches of precipitation annually, and only 21 days of rain a year.

The first meteorological observations and recordings were taken in Canada on September 19, 1768, at Fort Prince of Wales, some four miles south of the present Churchill, Manitoba, by William Wales and Joseph Dymond. Dymond and Wales "wintered over", taking observations several times daily by barometer and thermometer until August 27, 1769. The Canadian Weather Service (now the Meteorological Branch) dates its founding from the year 1839. Perhaps the best known service of the Meteorological Branch is the daily public weather forecast provided for all the populated regions in Canada and supplied to all the news media.

The Canada Post Office has issued a stamp this year to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Canada's first long term, fixed point weather observations.