

GOVERNMENT CABINET SHUFFLE

Prime Minister L.B. Pearson has announced a re-allocation of the departmental responsibilities of three members of the Cabinet.

Mr. John R. Nicholson has, at his own request, been relieved of responsibility for housing in view of his duties as Minister of Labour. Mr. E.J. Benson, who is to remain President of the Treasury Board, becomes the Minister responsible to Parliament for the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. To give him more time for this important assignment, he is relinquishing his post as Minister of National Revenue. Mr. Jean Chrétien, until now Minister without Portfolio, becomes Minister of National Revenue.

ORGANIZED TRAINING IN INDUSTRY

The results have been released of a mail survey, made by the Programme Development Service of the Department of Manpower and Immigration in co-operation with the Education Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, to determine the extent to which Canadian industry was providing formal training programmes for its employees. Over 13,000 usable returns were obtained from the 15,500 establishments in the manufacturing, public utilities, mining and transportation-communications industries that received questionnaires.

Approximately 25 per cent, or nearly 3,500, of these establishments, embracing nearly 1,860,000 employees, reported a training programme. While less than 20 per cent of the smaller firms (employing fewer than 50 persons) reported formal training arrangements, the percentage increased with each size group until 81 per cent of establishments with 1,000 or more people on the payroll reported that they were conducting such programmes.

Almost 128,000 employees were reported as having taken part in some organized training during the 12 months preceding October 31, 1965. Information was received on training which took place at the management, professional, supervisory, technician, skilled tradesman, office-employee, apprenticeship and semi-skilled levels. The largest number of persons - 28,000 - took training at the skilled-tradesman level, followed closely by 26,000 trainees at the semi-level. About the same number of apprentices received regular, organized instruction.

The report is comparable in certain areas with the results of a similar survey conducted in the spring of 1963. The most striking increase was in the number of apprentices, which doubled from 1963 to 1965. While the actual number in training at the skilled tradesman and supervisory levels increased by 32 per cent and 14 per cent respectively, the proportion of employees in training to the number on the payroll at these levels decreased slightly over the same period. There was a sharp decrease not only in the actual number of technician trainees but also in the ratio of trainees to the number on the payroll in this category.

CPP SURVIVORS' BENEFITS

Survivors' benefits under the Canada Pension Plan will become payable in February. Benefits include a lump-sum death benefit, a widow's pension, a disabled widower's pension, and benefits to the dependent children of a deceased contributor. In order that a survivor may claim any of these benefits, the deceased must have contributed to the Plan for at least three years.

As with the retirement pensions under the Canada Pension Plan, survivors' benefits will be subject to annual adjustment to reflect variations in the cost of living.

The amounts of a widow's pension and a disabled widower's pension depend on the average pensionable earnings of the contributor. The pension for a widow under 65 will be \$25.50 plus 37.5 per cent of the deceased's retirement pension; a widow aged 65 or over will receive 60 per cent of her deceased husband's retirement pension. Widows' or disabled widowers' pensions may be as much as \$65 a month. Lesser amounts are payable where the deceased contributor's earnings were less than the maximum pensionable earnings.

Dependent children of the deceased will qualify for a benefit of \$25.50 a month for each of the first four children and \$12.75 for the fifth and each additional child.

A lump-sum death benefit is also payable, which amounts to six times the monthly retirement pension of the deceased contributor, up to a maximum of \$510.

If a contributor had not reached pensionable age at the time of his death, a retirement pension would be calculated as though he had, in order to determine the amount of the widow's or disabled widower's pension and the death benefit. The calculation of a widow's pension is dependent on a number of factors, including her age when widowed, whether she has dependent or disabled children or is disabled herself.

The start of payments of survivors' benefits will be drawn to the attention of contributors in a national advertising programme in February.

HOCKEY AND SKI GRANTS

Grants under the Fitness and Amateur Sports Programme in support of Canada's two major winter sports - hockey and skiing - were announced recently by Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

The Canadian Amateur Ski Association received grants totalling about \$113,000 in support of its 1967-68 programme, which includes national championships, international competition and training for the National Ski Team, clinics for ski coaches and assistance for recreational skiers.

The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association was awarded grants amounting to \$85,000, most of which will assist the national hockey teams based in Winnipeg and Ottawa. Part of this grant will provide support for the participation of Canada's hockey team in the Olympics at Grenoble in February.