

LABOUR FORCE INCREASE. Canada's civilian labour force increased 74,000 in the 12 months between March 1948 and March this year to reach the highest figure for late winter in the four years since the Bureau of Statistics undertook its quarterly labour force surveys. On March 5 this year the labour force is estimated at 4,899,000 compared with 4,825,000 a year earlier, and 4,706,000 two years ago.

The survey shows an estimated total of 4,700,000 persons were employed, an increase of 31,000 over March last year, a gain of 135,000 over 1947, and 388,000 more than in 1946. Unusually bad weather in some sections of Canada increased the number of seasonally unemployed as compared with the previous year, the total rising to 199,000 from 156,000. At the same date in 1947 the unemployed numbered 141,000, and in 1946 the figure stood at 213,000.

Agricultural employment stood at 955,000 in the week ending March 5, slightly under last year's total of 965,000. The decrease this year was evident more noticeably in the number of women employed in agriculture. Employment outside of agriculture, on the other hand, rose to 3,744,000 from 3,704,000 a year earlier.

There was increased agricultural employment in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, but decreases in Quebec, Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. In non-agricultural pursuits, there was increased employment in Quebec and Ontario, but decreases were shown in the Maritime Provinces, Prairie Provinces and British Columbia.

The percentage of the total Canadian labour force unemployed was 4.1 per cent in March this year as compared with last year's figure of 3.2 per cent. The proportion unemployed continues to be highest in British Columbia and the Maritimes.

STORE SALES UP. Department store sales advanced seven per cent during the week ending May 21 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures issued by the Bureau of Statistics. Largest gain of 14 per cent was shown in Alberta, followed by British Columbia with a rise of 10 per cent, Maritime Provinces seven per cent, Quebec and Ontario each six per cent, Saskatchewan five per cent, and Manitoba four per cent.

HIS MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY. Twenty-one gun Royal Salutes will be fired at traditional saluting stations across Canada at 12 noon, Monday, June 6, to mark the official celebration of the King's birthday. Army authorities have announced.

The guns will be manned by personnel of either Active or Reserve Force artillery units, depending upon what troops are stationed at the centres concerned. The salutes will be fired at provincial capitals and at Ottawa and Vancouver.

RECORD REFRIGERATOR PRODUCTION. Canadian manufacturers turned out an all-time record number of domestic electric refrigerators and domestic washing machines in March, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The month's output of refrigerators reached a total of 15,900 units as compared with 13,300 in the preceding month and 10,400 in the same month last year, while the production of domestic washing machines of all kinds rose to 34,100 units from 29,300 in February and 26,800 a year ago.

During the first three months of this year, 42,500 refrigerators were produced as compared with 32,300 in the similar period last year, an increase of 32 per cent. Domestic washing machines advanced 29 per cent in the quarter, rising to 95,500 units from 74,000 in the similar period a year earlier.

COPPER AND NICKEL. Continuing the gains of earlier months, Canadian production of new primary copper reached a total of 21,900 tons in March, according to the Bureau of Statistics. This year's March figure compares with 21,500 produced in February and 21,100 in March last year. During the first three months of this year, 64,200 tons were produced as against 60,600 in the similar period last year.

Nickel output in March increased to 12,600 tons from 10,900 in the preceding month and 10,500 in the corresponding month last year. Production for the three months ended March totalled 34,600 tons as compared with 30,900 in the like 1948 period.

WHOLESALE PRICES. Continuing the downtrend in evidence in the first quarter of this year, a further slight decline was shown in wholesale prices in Canada in April, according to the general wholesale price index number published by the Bureau of Statistics. The index was down one-tenth of a point from March and 2.1 points from the high reached in December, but 8.6 points above the April index last year.

The index for April this year, on the base 1926=100, stood at 157.5 as compared with 157.6 in March, 159.6 in December and 148.9 in April last year. As compared with the preceding month, decreases were recorded for all group indexes with the exception of vegetable products.

CARLOADINGS. Carloading on Canadian railways for the week ending May 21 totalled 73,500 cars compared with 74,100 cars in the preceding week and 76,700 cars in the corresponding week last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Loadings in the eastern division amounted to 50,000 cars compared with 53,100 a year earlier, and in the western division, 23,500 cars compared with 23,600.

and textiles. Other industries, like sugar refining, are entirely Canadian controlled.

United States controlled manufacturers of motor vehicles ranked first among all industrial groups in value of production. Their production was also very prominent when considered in relation to total output of all such manufacturers in Canada, amounting to 95 per cent of the total.

Petroleum refining constituted a similar example, ranking third in the value of United States controlled production and accounting for 66 per cent of all petroleum products manufactured in the country. Much the same situation existed in the manufacture of miscellaneous non-ferrous metals which ranked fifth in production among the United States controlled firms and accounted for 66 per cent of the national total.

In contrast, United States controlled firms manufacturing pulp and paper had a high absolute but a low relative value of production. They ranked second in value of production after motor vehicle manufacturing but produced only 29 per cent of the pulp and paper manufactured in Canada. Industries showing the converse situation of a low absolute and a high relative production were soaps and toilet preparations, and carbonated beverages. Production by United States controlled firms in these two groups expressed as percentages of the Canadian totals were respectively 49 and 40.

Industries in which the large United States controlled producers reported the lowest percentages of total production were miscellaneous vegetable products -- three per cent; textiles, two per cent; miscellaneous paper products, eight per cent; miscellaneous wood products, two per cent; miscellaneous iron and steel products, eight per cent; and miscellaneous non-metallic minerals, seven per cent.

SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS. Canada had a sales balance of \$800,000 on her trade in securities with other countries in March as compared with a purchase balance of \$1,200,000 in the preceding month, according to the Bureau of Statistics. In March last year, sales and purchases were in balance. Sales balanced purchases in the first quarter of this year in contrast to net purchases of \$5,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1948.

Sales to all countries in March amounted to \$14,600,000 as compared with \$11,400,000 in February and \$15,600,000 in March last year, while the purchases totalled \$13,800,000 compared with \$12,600,000 in February and \$15,600,000 a year ago. First quarter sales totalled \$44,400,000 compared with \$45,100,000, and the purchases, \$44,400,000 compared with \$50,100,000.

Increases over February in March sales and purchases resulted principally from the rise in transactions between Canada and the United States. Sales and purchases with that country

in March totalled \$27,200,000, an increase of 21 per cent over the preceding month, and produced a net sales balance of \$1,000,000. Canadian bonds and debentures were the principal securities traded.

Total sales and purchases with the United Kingdom in March remained unchanged from the preceding month, although purchases exceeded sales by \$200,000. Total transactions with other countries decreased slightly to \$800,000, purchases and sales being equal.

GRAIN MARKETING. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced on June 1 that it is the Government's intention to authorize the Canadian Wheat Board to undertake the marketing of western-grown oats and barley delivered by producers during the 1949/50 crop year, commencing on August 1.

This policy is authorized by an amendment to the Canadian Wheat Board Act, passed by Parliament during the 1948 session. In that session of Parliament and again during the 1949 session, Mr. Howe indicated that the Canadian Wheat Board would be authorized to undertake the marketing of oats and barley on condition that the Governments in the Prairie Provinces would indicate their support by passing complementary legislation.

The Saskatchewan Legislature passed a complementary Act in 1948, and the Alberta and Manitoba Legislatures did likewise during their 1949 sessions. Accordingly, the Government intends to authorize the Canadian Wheat Board to undertake the marketing of oats and barley, commencing on August 1.

DEPORTATION APPEAL DISMISSED. The Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson, announced on May 31 that the appeal of Dimitri Leschenko against deportation had been dismissed. The case was given some prominence in the press a few weeks ago due to the fact that Leschenko admitted during a Board of Inquiry held by the Immigration Service that he had been a Soviet spy who operated behind German lines and later in British occupied territory. Careful inquiry failed to reveal good reason why he should be allowed to remain in Canada and deportation is being effected because of misrepresentation connected with his entry to this country.

DR. WRIDE'S APPOINTMENT. Appointment of Dr. Gordon E. Wride of Regina, as an Assistant Director of Health Insurance studies in the Department of National Health and Welfare was announced on May 30 by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin.

He will assist Dr. F.W. Jackson, Director of Health Insurance studies, in the development and administration of the \$30,000,000 federal health program.

Dr. Wride was, until he came to Ottawa, Director of Hospital Planning and Administration in Saskatchewan.