

## LABOUR DAY

Mr. John R. Nicholson, Minister of Labour, recently issued the following message for Labour Day, September 5:

In the year since last Labour Day, Canada and its people have continued to advance and prosper. Employment has increased by four per cent over the year, while unemployment has continued at the lowest rate since 1957. Industrial production has risen substantially, and total earnings of the labour force have increased by 12.5 per cent. These developments have been accompanied by rising prices of essential items, which have made some workers naturally concerned about their living standards. This has been one factor giving rise to labour unrest.

Many important collective agreements have come up for negotiation this year. With employment high and the economy buoyant, these negotiations have resulted in significant gains in wages and working conditions. This has been part of the normal working of our Canadian society since the Second World War. It is part of a system which, though no one would claim is perfect, has given us one of the highest standards of living in the world.

Our standard of living will continue to increase with economic and social growth as long as gains in wages, and working conditions are matched by a corresponding rate of growth in productivity. If we fail to maintain a steady growth in productivity, we are likely to jeopardize our economic and social goals which we have agreed are desirable.

Our productivity has increased encouragingly in recent years, but the rate of increase is not as high as in the early 1950s, and it is not as high as in the United States. We have special problems, but there are ways within our power to increase productivity. We must seize and use new technological advances, and develop our management methods to the highest possible level. We must find the best possible ways of using our human, material and economic resources.

These are goals that all of us, labour, management and governments, should keep before us in the coming year.

### ILO MEETING

Labour Day, this year, comes on the eve of an important conference to be held in Ottawa - the eighth regional conference of member countries of the International Labour Organization in the Americas. The conference will centre round two main themes having to do with economic and social development. One of these is the role of manpower planning and employment policy, the other the role of social security and living and working conditions.

Like productivity, these are subjects of universal concern. They are of particular interest to us in Canada, where we have made great strides over recent years in firming up manpower policies and in broadening our labour standards, pension, health and medical programmes. At this meeting we will be able to exchange ideas and experiences with other countries which, while also American, differ in their history, resources and social and economic development.

It is an unfortunate fact that Canadians know all too little of many of the countries and peoples of our hemisphere. This meeting will be an opportunity for us to demonstrate our desire to co-operate with the other nations of the Americas in an effort to find solutions to our common problems.

I am sure that we will be able to gain from this exchange, as we have gained before from our long participation in the work of the ILO and other international organizations. And I hope that once again, we will be able to make a useful contribution ourselves.

My best wishes to you all this Labour Day.

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## COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MEETING

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that Canada would be host to the 1966 finance ministers' meeting of the Commonwealth Economic Consultative Council September 21 and 22. The meeting, which is to be attended by ministers and senior officials from all 23 Commonwealth countries, will take place in Montreal. It is expected that the ministers will exchange views on economic matters of common interest with particular reference to the meetings in Washington the following week of the Governors of the International Monetary Fund and of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Commonwealth Economic Consultative Council was established following the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference held in Montreal in 1958 to co-ordinate existing arrangements for Commonwealth consultation and co-operation on economic matters. The Council, which at various meetings has been composed of Commonwealth finance and trade ministers, has customarily met each year just prior to the annual meeting of the IMF and the IBRD.

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## CENTENNIAL PRAYER TREASURY

The Canadian Interfaith Conference recently commissioned Dr. Ramsay Armitage, secretary of the committee revising the Anglican Prayer Book and former principal of Wycliffe College, Toronto, to edit a multi-faith book entitled *The Canadian Centennial Anthology of Prayer*.

For his contribution to theological education and his work on the revision of the Anglican Prayer Book, Dr. Armitage was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity by seven Canadian theological colleges. A native of Halifax, where he graduated in arts with distinction, from Dalhousie University, Ramsay Armitage received his master of arts degree from the University of Toronto, specializing in comparative philology. He was awarded the Military Cross for overseas service with the Third Battalion, First Canadian Division.

Dr. Armitage said that the anthology, which is expected to be published in October, would "take