

## RECORD LABOUR INCOME

Canadian labour income reached a record total of \$15,348,000,000 in 1957, an increase of 7.4 per cent over the preceding year's \$14,284,000,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. December's total was \$1,288,000,000 versus \$1,316,000,000 in November and \$1,248,000,000 a year earlier.

The drop of \$28,000,000 from November to December can be explained partly by reference to seasonal factors. However, when allowance has been made for these the resulting seasonally adjusted estimate of \$1,282,000,000 still represents a fall of \$6 million from the similarly adjusted estimate for the preceding month. Thus the downward trend evident in the previous two or three months continued into December.

Increases in labour income were posted for all five major groups in the full year but the reverse was true in the November-December comparison. Labour income in construction in December was off by about 14 per cent from November, largely, but not entirely, owing to seasonal influences. Primary industries fell by 4 per cent or 5 per cent, partly a result of the continued, though less rapid, decline in forestry (apart from seasonal movement). Other industrial groups displayed more moderate rates of decrease.

Labour income by major groups in the full year: agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping, mining, \$1,081,000,000 (\$1,049,000,000); manufacturing, \$4,764,000,000 (\$4,545,000,000); construction, \$1,156,000,000 (\$1,114,000,000); utilities, transportation, communication, storage and trade, \$4,022,000,000 (\$3,685,000,000); finance, services, including government, \$3,792,000,000 (\$3,394,000,000); and supplementary labour income, \$533,000,000 (\$497,000,000).

December totals: agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping, mining, \$85,000,000 (\$89,000,000 in November); manufacturing, \$396,000,000 (\$397,000,000); construction, \$90,000,000 (\$104,000,000); utilities, transportation, communication, storage, trade, \$344,000,000 (\$348,000,000); finance, services, including government, \$328,000,000 (\$332,000,000); supplementary labour income, \$45,000,000 (\$46,000,000).

Estimates of employment in major non-agricultural industries are consistent with changes in income. By late November the industrial composite index was lower than at the same date a year earlier in nine of the ten provinces (Saskatchewan was the exception). The seasonally adjusted employment index for Canada continued to fall from late October to late November. The average of industrial weekly earnings was higher by 4.7 per cent in late November than at the same date in 1956. On the other hand, the average number of hours worked in manufacturing fell from 41.5 to 40.6, a drop of 2.2 per cent.

## UNION MEMBERSHIP GROWS

A 2.5 per cent increase in Canadian trade union membership in the year ending January 1957, to a total of 1,386,185, is reported in the latest edition of *Labour Organization in Canada*, recently published. It is the 46th annual report issued by the Department.

The 1957 total, compiled just seven months after three quarters of Canadian union members realigned themselves to form the Canadian Labour Congress, was 32.8 per cent of non-agricultural paid workers. This proportion, despite the increase in total membership, was 0.5 per cent lower than a year earlier.

The 1957 survey showed that:

(a) The Canadian Labour Congress increased its membership by 40,000.

(b) Affiliation of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen with the CLC reduced the size of the independent railway brotherhood group by 10,000.

(c) There were, at August 1957, six fewer provincial federations and 25 fewer local labour councils than a year before.

(d) The number of unions active in Canada decreased by seven.

(e) International unions gained 43,000 new members.

(f) National union membership changed little from last year.

(g) Ontario recorded the largest increase in union membership.

(h) Largest labour market gain was in Hamilton, where some 9,000 members were added.

(i) By industrial groups the largest change was in manufacturing, where the percentage of workers organized rose by 2 per cent.

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## ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT

An agreement between the Governments of Canada and Switzerland for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy has been signed in Ottawa. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Sydney Smith, signed for Canada and the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Victor Nef, for Switzerland. The agreement is to be ratified and will come into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification.

This agreement provides for co-operation in a variety of forms including the exchange of information, the supply of equipment and materials, and access to and use of facilities. In particular, the agreement will permit arrangements to be made for the supply of uranium from Canada to Switzerland.

This agreement is similar to that concluded with the Federal Republic of Germany last December. Such agreements for co-operation on a bilateral basis are consistent with membership in and support of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to which both Canada and Switzerland belong.