

## PRICE INDEXES

Consumer price indexes increased in nine of the ten regional cities between March and April 1960, with the Vancouver index decreasing 0.4 per cent. Increases in the other nine cities ranged from a fractional 0.1 per cent in Edmonton-Calgary to 1.0 per cent in St. John's.

Higher food indexes were mainly responsible for movements in the total indexes, as foods increased in all regional cities except Edmonton-Calgary and Vancouver. In the latter two cities, food indexes declined 0.1 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively, while increases in the other eight regional cities ranged from 0.6 per cent in Saskatoon-Regina to 1.8 per cent in Montreal. Group indexes for other commodities and services were up in all regional cities except Halifax and Saint John, with the increase of 0.4 per cent in St. John's the largest upward movement.

Shelter indexes were unchanged in five of the ten regional cities, down in Toronto and Vancouver, and up in the remaining three.

Clothing indexes showed mixed results, with five city indexes higher, three lower and two unchanged from March levels. Household-operation indexes decreased in five cities, increased in four cities and remained unchanged in the remaining regional city.

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## REHABILITATION BODY MEETS

"Rehabilitation and employment must go hand in hand and we must impress on every citizen of Canada that it is the ability of a handicapped person that counts, not his disability," said Brigadier James L. Melville, at the May 16 opening of a two-day meeting of the National Advisory Committee on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons. Brigadier Melville was recently appointed Chairman of the Committee.

A.H. Brown, Deputy Minister of Labour, who opened the meeting and welcomed the new Chairman, asked the Committee to examine seriously the operation and scope of the rehabilitation programme. "We have a good vehicle for rehabilitation in this country, but we need to generate more horsepower in this vehicle so that we can move ahead at a faster rate," he said.

Ian Campbell, Canada's National Co-ordinator of Civilian Rehabilitation, reported on progress and developments in the rehabilitation programme. He said that the past year had provided evidence that the experimental period through which Canada had passed had resulted in the establishment, in all parts of the country, of better means of reaching the disabled with the constructive forces of rehabilitation.

Since the programme began, Canada had seen the establishment of rehabilitation offices in each of the provinces, a great growth in

facilities for medical rehabilitation in our hospitals and a significant increase in the number of professional personnel engaged in the medical side of this programme.

## REHABILITATION CENTRES

No fewer than fifteen new rehabilitation centres had come into being and at least eleven new centres for sheltered employment had been established. The number of disabled persons receiving formal or on-the-job training had increased considerably. The placement efforts of the National Employment Service had been extended and efforts to co-ordinate the work being done by both voluntary and governmental agencies had been strengthened. The Committee knew of the expanding efforts of the voluntary agencies and must have become increasingly convinced of the wisdom of attempting to build in Canada a programme that would have as its foundation the active co-operation of these two major groups.

In the past year, the number of rehabilitated cases on which full particulars were available had increased considerably, but this figure was still not an adequate indication of the extent to which rehabilitation services were benefitting the disabled. However, a sample of statistics indicated the great economic value of a sound rehabilitation programme. These statistics covered 4,689 disabled persons with 3,410 dependents.

At the time of their being referred to rehabilitation, 80 per cent of these people were without earnings and 50 per cent were receiving public assistance; the annual cost for their support would have been approximately \$3,500,000. After rehabilitation, their earnings were about \$8,500,000 annually. It was obvious, then, Mr. Campbell went on, that the worth of this programme had been established from the financial point of view. Much more important, the combined efforts of all agencies had been able to restore these people to a feeling of worth and accomplishment and a sense of pride in being able to make their rightful contribution to the nation.

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## MOTOR ACCIDENTS

Motor accidents on Canada's streets and highways took 158 lives in March this year, compared to 177 in the corresponding 1959 month, according to a special statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This brought the January-March death toll to 456, smaller by 1.9 per cent than the like year-earlier total of 465.

Fewer deaths in motor vehicle traffic accidents were reported in March in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. No deaths were recorded in either year in Prince Edward Island and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. March deaths by province were: Newfoundland, 3 (1 a year earlier); Nova