

dustries which had exceptionally large capital programmes during the past several years. For example, spending for pulp and paper mills is likely to decline by some \$170 million and that for iron mines by \$56 million. In most other broad areas of business, capital spending will be at about the 1967 level. The major exception is the fuel and power industry, where expanded plans for electric power facilities, oil refineries and pipelines will result in significantly higher capital expenditures.

Outlays for social capital facilities, exclusive of housing, are expected to increase by more than \$500 million in 1968. This reflects a much higher level of capital spending for educational institutions and hospitals. Outlays for primary and secondary schools and universities are likely to increase by close to \$300 million and those for hospitals by nearly \$50 million. A further increase in house-building activity is also indicated in 1968, with expenditures for this purpose totalling \$2,577 million, compared to the \$2,353 million spent in 1967.

The report indicates that the 7 percent increase indicated in outlays for new construction will involve increased activity in construction and related trades. On the other hand, the near-level trend of spending indicated for new machinery and equipment should entail little change in the tempo of activity in machinery industries and in the level of imports which account for a major portion of Canada's machinery and equipment requirements.

FOREST-FIRE WARNING

The following message by the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development, Mr. Maurice Sauvé, was issued on connection with National Forest Week, May 5 to 11:

Last year, according to our preliminary estimates, fire destroyed more than two million acres of potentially valuable woodlands throughout Canada.

Over the previous ten years, such fires resulted in the loss of more than \$130-million worth of forest resources, while the cost of fighting these fires approached \$64 million.

This represents an enormous waste, even for a nation so well endowed with natural resources as Canada; for industries based upon our forest resources provide the livelihood for some 300,000 Canadians and account for one out of every four dollars which we earn through exports to the markets of the world.

Again this year during National Forest Week, as the summer outdoor season approaches, I remind

Canadians that we all have an important role in the protection and conservation of our forests. Remember that three out of every four forest fires can be traced back to some act of human carelessness or thoughtlessness....

LABOUR FORCE

Employment in Canada showed little change from February to March, increasing by 13,000 to 7,120,000. The increase in employment was below average for the time of the year. Unemployment, at 488,000, showed little change from that of the previous month. The labour force increased by 19,000 to 7,608,000, a smaller increase than usual.

The labour force was 119,000, or 1.6 percent above that of a year ago. Employment increased by 31,000 from March 1967; unemployment rose by 88,000.

EMPLOYMENT

Farm employment increased by 26,000 during the month. Non-farm employment decreased by 13,000 from February to March. Decreases occurred in forestry (19,000), and community, business and personal service (13,000). Employment in trade increased by 23,000 during the month.

The net year-to-year increase in employment was 31,000. Increases were reported for community, business and personal service, trade, finance, insurance and real estate, and public administration. Decreases occurred in manufacturing and construction.

Year-to-year increases in employment of 3.3 per cent and 1.2 per cent were recorded in British Columbia and Ontario, respectively. Employment in Quebec was 1.4 percent lower than that recorded a year earlier. Little change occurred in the Atlantic and Pacific Regions.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed remained almost unchanged from February to March. The March estimate of 488,000 was 88,000 higher than that of a year earlier.

Of the total unemployed during March, 326,000, or 67 per cent, were unemployed for less than four months. The remaining 162,000, or 33 per cent, were unemployed for four months or more.

Unemployment in March 1968 represented 6.4 per cent of the labour force, compared to 5.3 in March 1967 and 4.8 in March 1966. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for March 1968 was 4.7 per cent.