

NORTHERN SERVICE OFFICERS: A new kind of career in the north is being opened to adventurous Canadians.

The job is called Northern Service Officer, and the men who are chosen to fill it will live at the edge of the Canadian Arctic; at Aklavik near the mouth of the Mackenzie River; at Coppermine on Coronation Gulf; at Coral Harbour on Southampton Island; at Port Harrison on the east coast of Hudson Bay; at Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island, at Fort Chimo on Ungava Bay.

"This is work with a rare kind of challenge," Northern Affairs Minister Lesage commented when announcing the competition which the Civil Service Commission is conducting for his Department. "Canada is now turning in earnest to the development of its northlands. It recognizes the special problems of the Eskimo whose traditional life is being changed by contact with men from the south, by new methods of hunting, by new forms of employment. These Northern Service Officers will have a great responsibility for the future of the lands and the people who live there."

The men chosen will work in established communities in Eskimo country. Their job will be to get to know the native peoples, to help them use their available resources, and to develop new resources to improve their economic, social, and cultural conditions. They may assist them with local industries such as boat-building, tanning, or handicrafts, and they will always be on the lookout for new outlets for native talents. Equally important, these officers will advise the Administration in Ottawa of measures which might be taken to improve the life of the Eskimos, and to help them make a bigger contribution to national life.

Nearly everyone who has worked with the Eskimos has become an enthusiast for Canada's most northern residents, but the job of the Northern Service Officer is not for anyone. It is for men with the qualities of leadership which opened up other parts of Canada in earlier years. Pioneering today is a better life than it was for the first visitors to the west or to the Arctic. The Northern Service Officers will have homes and facilities for their families, if their families are willing to share the life.

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INVENTORIES HIGHER. Total value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturers at the end of February was \$4,047,000,000, slightly above the preceding month's \$4,041,500,000, and up 4% from last year's \$3,889,000,000. Inventories actually owned by manufacturers advanced to \$3,617,100,000 from \$3,065,500,000 the month before and \$3,488,100,000 last year, and inventories held but not owned, at \$429,900,000, declined from January's \$436,000,000, but climbed from last year's \$400,900,000.

HOURLY EARNINGS RISE: Average hourly earnings in Canadian manufacturing industries in 1953 increased 5.1% as compared with 1952, weekly wages rose 4.6%, while average hours worked per week were slightly lower, according to the Bureau's annual review of man-hours and hourly earnings.

Although average hourly earnings increased during 1953, the rise over 1952 was below the post-war average, and was also less than in either 1952 or 1951. The percentage gain was the same as in 1950, but was otherwise the smallest since 1946. Except during the late summer, there were successive though slight advances in the monthly average during 1953.

The payment of higher wage rates was mainly responsible for the rise in factory earnings generally in 1953, but changes in industrial distribution as compared with a year earlier also contributed. Factories producing durable manufactured goods, in which hourly earnings rose 5.2%, reported an increase of more than 7% in their aggregate hours. In the non-durable industries, the total of hours was higher by over 4%, while the average hourly earnings mounted by 4.7% from 1952.

The rise of 4.6% in average weekly wages in manufacturing was the smallest advance in any year since 1946, and the annual average of hours worked per week was the lowest in the record. Since 1945, the weekly hours have shortened by 6.8%, partly as a result of lessened amounts of overtime work as compared with the war years, and partly reflecting a reduction in standard hours in many industries and establishments.

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DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD: Appointments as members of the Defence Research Board have been accepted by one of Canada's most distinguished scientists and a leading Canadian industrialist.

For Dr. Chalmers Jack Mackenzie, of Ottawa, internationally known scientist, the appointment marks his second term as a Defence Research Board member. As President of the National Research Council, Dr. Mackenzie was an ex-officio member when the Board was created in 1947. Mr. Randolphe William Diamond, of Trail, B.C., Vice President and General Manager of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited will broaden his past associations with the Board by service as a member.

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FARM PRICES LOWER. The trend of Canada's farm price index of agricultural products, which has been upward since November last, was reversed in March. From a revised figure of 233.8 in February, it declined 1.3 points to 232.5. This decline resulted from a general lowering of prices for live stock, dairy products, potatoes, and poultry and eggs. No change was recorded for grains.