

# Jobless Figures Reviewed

By ROBERT RICE  
OTTAWA (CP)—Canada's labor force began the new year with an estimated 6,231,000 persons at work and 466,000 unemployed.

The jobless total at mid-January was down 75,000 from the year-earlier count, but up 120,000 between December and January.

The mid-winter decrease in unemployment was described as "normal for this time of year" in a joint report issued Wednesday by the federal labor department and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The report was based on a survey of 35,000 households across Canada for the week ended Jan. 18. Figures are estimates, not precise totals.

As a percentage of the labor force, unemployment was seven per cent—a substantial drop from the 8.3-per-cent rate of January, 1963. Seasonally adjusted, the unemployment rate was 4.9 per cent, the same as in December. A year earlier it was 5.9 per cent.

Employment showed a sharp jump over the total at the start of 1963—up by 275,000, or 4.1 per cent, to 6,231,000. Since September, employment has risen a month has been well ahead of the comparable period last year.

**FORESTRY HELPS**  
Continuing strength in goods-producing industries—chiefly manufacturing, forestry and residential construction—have kept more men at work than is usual during the winter months, the report said.

An estimated 4,416,000 men were employed last month, up 145,000, or 3.3 per cent, over the year-earlier employment count. Over the last five years, in comparison, the average annual rate of increase in male employment has been 1.4 per cent.

Employment of women continued to rise at a high rate with 1,815,000 women at work compared with 1,683,000 in January last year.

Regionally, employment was up considerably from last year in all regions except the Atlantic, where it was virtually unchanged. The increases ranged from 4.7 per cent in Ontario to 6.7 per cent in British Columbia.

The decline in unemployment over the year was shared by all regions, but the Atlantic area still had the highest jobless rate—12.6 per cent of its labor force compared with the lowest rate of 4.7 per cent in the Prairies.

## Iowa Farmer Tells Russians To Keep Trying

By GEORGE SYLVERSTEIN  
MOSCOW (AP)—Iowa corn farmer Rowell Garst has told the Russians they will not catch up soon to American farmers, but advised them to keep trying anyway.

Garst, a personal friend of Soviet Premier Khrushchev, encouraged the Russians to follow the American lead in farming in a 3,000-word letter to Soviet agricultural officials now meeting in the Kremlin.

Invited to publish the letter Wednesday in a magazine with articles made at the third day of the Soviet Communist party's central committee meeting on farm problems. An editorial note said that although "we cannot agree with all the conclusions of Mr. Garst, especially in relation to his evaluation of some political movements," his views on farm technology "deserve great attention."

The Coon Rapids farmer said he had travelled extensively through the Soviet Union and East Europe in the last nine years. "I saw that we are far, far ahead of the agriculture of East Europe," he wrote.

He estimated the Communist satellite nations were about 30 years behind the U.S. Russia is ahead where the United States was eight years ago, he said.

"You will not overtake us in eight years, as we will continue to make great progress, but you will double your productivity and significantly decrease labor expenditures."

The Iowa farmer and corn wholesaler said the Soviet agricultural lag was due to destruction caused by two world wars on its territory in the last 50 years. But he said the Soviet Union is making great strides in agriculture and congratulated the Russians.

"The Soviet Union is lucky that the head of government is Premier Khrushchev, who profoundly knows farming and is actively interested in attaining the maximum progress."

Garst made no mention in his letter to the Soviet agricultural crisis that prompted the calling of the current special meeting on farming. Speakers from various Soviet republics continued Wednesday to describe in glowing terms the expected benefits Khrushchev's latest plan for intensive irrigation and fertilization held in store for their areas.

Ontario, which had six provincial parks in 1954, is planning to add seven to bring the total to 13.

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