Employment prospects show lift

By ROBERT RICE

OTTAWA (CP)—Barring an unexpected dip in Canada's economy, the unemployment picture for 1962 shapes up as brighter—but still bleak.

That's the current forecast from informed sources both in and out of government.

They say unemployment in the months just ahead won't be as bad as in 1961.

Month by month, says Labor Minister Starr, unemployment will be down from post-war records of 1961.

Labor circles, however, say it won't be down much.

They predict a peak unemployment rate this winter of about 10 per cent, compared with 11.3 per cent last February.

Unemployment hit its peak in February, when 719,000 workers were without jobs. By September, it had dropped to its low point for the year—308,000 jobless, 4.7 per cent of the labor force.

SLOWER CLIMB

In October, it was climbing again—but at a rate under that of corresponding months of 1960.

By November, there were 349,000 jobless, 5.4 per cent of the labor force. A year earlier the total was 429,000, or 6.6 per cent of the labor force. Figures for December won't be available until early in January.

The unemployment problem—a bagful of assorted problems—will be a major issue in any election fight in the new year.

The government will point to its campaign to combat unemployment: Winter works incentives, assistance for vocational training, aid to depressed areas and other legislative and economic actions aimed at bolstering the over-all economy.

Mr. Starr has indicated the government will do all it can to help industry provide the 1,000,000 new jobs forecast as necessary by 1965.

The forecast came from the Senate manpower committee, which dug deeper than ever before into the nature and causes of unemployment in Canada.

FIVE PROJECTS

The National Productivity Council, set up by the federal government to oil the wheels of Canadian efficiency, also moved into action on unemployment. It launched five major projects aimed at promoting a national unified effort to "stimulate the productive efficiency of all Canadian industry and services."

The end result, said the council, is to create "new and expanding employment opportunities for Canadian workers."

But as the year ended, labor leaders were criticizing the idea that lagging productivity was the root cause of the country's job troubles. They said lagging purchasing power was the basic ailment, which could be cured by a massive injection of federal spending on socially useful projects.

With a general election regarded as certain in 1962, the great unemployment debate is sure to continue.

Ejector seat proves ability to save life

LONDON (AP) — About the only people in the world who relish being blown up are air force pilots heading for a crash.

The pilot ejector seat, first conceived by Britain's Martin-Baker Aircraft Company in 1944 and put into service in 1948, has saved 502 lives in the last 13 years.

Recently the company celebrated the news that the invention had blasted 100 pilots to safety in 1961 alone. Nearly 40 countries fit the company's seats in their planes.

The first ejector seats were comparatively primitive. After pulling back the canopy of the doomed plane the pilot fired one or two cartridges which shot him out of the cockpit.

Once in the air he had to wait until parachutes stabilized the seat and then, presuming he had time, unharness the seat and pull the ripcord of his own parachute.

Today the pilot merely pulls a handle, 24 cartridges explode him clear of the aircraft and everything else is done automatically.

The company now is working on a low-level ejection seat which is first blown clear by cartridges and then "kicked" 400 feet in the air by a rocket.

James Martin, the company's 63-year-old chairman and chief designer, says blueprints are being prepared to keep pace with the latest aircraft developments and seats are being planned which will eject pilots safely from vertical take-off fighters.

POOR YEAR

In the 1948 Olympic Games at Wembley, England, won by the U.S. with unofficial team total of 662 points, Canada was 20th with 35 points.

FAMED BACKFIELD

The 1924 Notre Dame backfield — the Four Horsemen — consisted of James Crowley, Elmer Layden, Harry Stuhldreher and Don Miller.

NEWLYWEDS — Athur Smith, 75, of Toronto, talks to his wife Caroline, 78, after their marriage at city hall last week. They are the oldest couple to be married in a civil ceremony since the city hall was opened in 1950. — CP Wirephoto

Another bastion of aristocracy bites the dust

LONDON (AP) — A shudder of horror rippled through the British nobility today — Debrett's is being taken over by Kelly's.

For 300 years Debrett's full name, Debrett's Peerage, Baronetage, Knightwage and Companionage has been the last word on who's who among the peerage. It sells for 12 guineas ($35.28).

Compilers of Debrett's look down their noses at the other entry in the field, which is Kelly's Handbook to the Titled, Landed and Official Classes. A king of poor man's peerage, as you might say, Kelly's retail price is a mere £4, 15s ($13.30).

Recently, however, the Mirror publishing group, which owns Kelly's, bought control of the Odhams groups, which owns Debrett's. Now the Mirror group has decided to cut administrative costs by bringing both rosters of the highborn under the direction of Kelly's.

Cyril Hankinson, 65, editor of Debrett's, was aghast.

"Frankly, we're a cut above Kelly's," he said. "They are simply not in our class. Why, Kelly's contains names Debrett's would never dream of mentioning."

He said James Boag, editor of Kelly's, is a nice fellow and a friend of his, "but Mr. Boag is only in his 40s and doesn't have the experience." Added Hankinson:

"It requires quite a different skill to edit Debrett's from the one required to edit Kelly's. I have been 40 years learning."

A spokesman for the publishers said there are no plans to merge the two volumes. He declined to go into the matter of whose who's who will outrank whose when the administrative changeover has been completed.

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