

Labour, Employment, Welfare

The Employment Position: 'Nepszabadsag' says that the number of those employed is now higher than before October 1956. Workers are wanted in the coalmining industry and other branches. A national recruiting campaign is in progress to meet the growing manpower needs of the coalmining and building industries in particular. The shortage of skilled workers is particularly acute. The labour exchanges are, however, unable to find jobs for all the women seeking jobs partly because many of those still seeking jobs can only undertake light work. This makes it difficult to find them employment, in spite of the labour shortage in several Budapest textile mills. Unskilled office workers are also hard to place. Some 10,000 people are now drawing unemployment benefit. Last January the figure stood at 40,000. Most of the people still unemployed have no dependants. By last August it was possible to reduce the amount earmarked for this type of assistance to 4,500,000 forints as against the 10,000,000 forints a month spent in the preceding months. (MTI and Hungarian information service 11.10.57)

Benefit Payments in Budapest: According to 'Nepakarat' 3,464 elderly and unemployed people received benefit payments totalling 454,614 forints in a single month in Budapest. The City Council had decided to raise the amount of assistance paid. (Hungarian information service 9.10.57)

Revision of Labour Code: In a statement to 'Nepakarat', Odoen Kishazi, the Minister of Labour, said that 15 committees were now working on the revision of the Labour Code. Any comprehensive review of the proposed changes was premature, Kishazi said. But he indicated that the conciliating committees (egyeztetőbizottságok) would be retained and factory collective contracts would be modified. The proposed amendments would probably be debated in the National Assembly in the first half of 1958. (Hungarian information service 9.10.57)