

**200 N.R.C. SCHOLARSHIPS:** By next spring, the National Research Council intends to award about 200 postgraduate scholarships to persons who apply before February 1. These scholarships will be awarded for study in the fields of science and engineering during 1953-54. Most of these awards will be held at Canadian universities and the remaining awards (about 20) at institutions outside Canada.

The awards tenable at Canadian universities are divided into bursaries of \$600 each, studentships of \$900 each, and fellowships of \$1200 each. These awards may be extended with an extra \$500 for the summer months, if the extension is recommended by the research supervisor. Bursaries are awarded to those graduates who have no previous research experience, studentships to those with at least one year of research, and fellowships to those in their last year of work on a Ph.D.

Awards tenable outside Canada are divided into special scholarships valued at \$1500 for 12 months, and postdoctorate overseas fellowships valued at \$2500 for 12 months. The special scholarships are intended for those who either have completed or are completing their work on a Master's degree. The postdoctorate overseas fellowships are intended to provide specialized training.

Applications should be addressed to the Awards Officer, National Research Council, Ottawa.

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**OLD AGE SECURITY:** The number of persons receiving old age security payments in Canada increased by about 7,400 over the past three months and stood at 675,423 at the end of October the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, announced on December 2. This total is about 95 per cent of all persons in Canada 70 years of age or older.

More than 6,100 persons received the \$40 payment for the first time in October, Mr. Martin said. Of this number more than a thousand could have been paid last January when the programme began if they had sent in their applications in time. Payments are not retroactive.

The October figures show the number of pensioners by provinces as: Newfoundland, 14,746; Prince Edward Island, 6,547; Nova Scotia, 35,668; New Brunswick, 25,376; Quebec, 144,699; Ontario, 248,573; Manitoba, 39,249; Saskatchewan, 39,145; Alberta, 38,484; British Columbia, 75,281; Yukon and the Northwest Territories, 453.

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In 1952, 380,250 colonies of bees owned by 15,790 Canadian beekeepers produced an estimated 29,677,000 pounds of honey as compared with 40,909,000 pounds produced by 406,340 colonies owned by 18,900 beekeepers in 1951.

**HOUSING STARTS INCREASE:** Starts on the construction of new dwelling units jumped sharply in September for the fourth month in a row in contrast to declines in the first five months of the year. Completions dropped in September following a gain in August, but declines were general in the January-July period. As a result of these trends there was a small rise in the total number of dwellings in various stages of construction at the end of September.

The number of dwelling units on which construction was started in September was 8,529 as compared with 9,461 in August and 5,538 in the corresponding month last year. The September increase raised the cumulative total for the first nine months of this year to 62,040 units as compared with 57,587 in the similar period of 1951.

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**SALMON PRESERVATION:** The federal Minister of Fisheries, Mr. James Sinclair, has announced the award of a half-million-dollar contract for the removal of the huge rock and earth slide in the Babine River Canyon in northern British Columbia.

It calls for the removal of approximately 130,000 cubic yards of rock and earth from the bank and bed of the Babine River, where it endangers valuable runs of salmon of the Skeena River system. Work is to be started immediately so that the river can be restored to its natural condition before the advent of spring floods and the arrival of the 1953 salmon run.

The slide, which created a problem comparable to that of 1914 at Heald's Gate on the Fraser River, occurred sometime during the summer of 1951, at a point 62 miles north of Hazelton. The bulk of that year's Babine River sockeye run was blocked from the spawning grounds.

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**CIVIL DEFENCE TRAINING:** Operation of a mobile provincial training school is among civil defence projects whose costs will be shared by the federal and British Columbia Governments, the federal Minister in charge of civil defence, Mr. Paul Martin, announced on December 1.

Approval has been given by Ottawa to British Columbia civil defence plans which include the continued operation of a mobile school providing courses on a progressive basis in the various municipalities of the province. It has been agreed that this method of training is particularly valuable in a province with the geographical and topographical features of British Columbia, where a large portion of the territory is separated from the mainland and where the remainder is divided by high mountains.