

ARMED FORCES PAY HIKE

Mr. Leo Cadieux, Minister of National Defence, recently announced that pay increases for members of the regular and reserve Armed Forces had been authorized by the Treasury Board. The increases, which average 6.5 per cent, are retroactive to October 1.

Besides the pay increases, a revised system of allowances has been authorized for members of the Forces whose duties include such hazardous activities as parachuting and deep-sea diving.

The raise means an extra \$52 a month for a chief warrant officer and \$10 a month for a private undergoing basic training. A colonel receives a monthly raise of \$97 and a lieutenant \$30.

The Minister also announced that the Government would shortly propose an amendment to the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act, which would increase the regular pension contributions made by both the Government and members of the Forces. Under the proposed amendment, the contribution of members of the Forces would go up from 6 to 6.5 per cent, the rate now paid by male employees in the civilian public service. The decision to seek changes in the rate of contributions was based on a recent actuarial report indicating a need for such changes.

SERVICE PAY STUDY

The Treasury Board has directed that a thorough study of military pay rates be completed by October 1969. This will be a joint study under the direction of a small group of officials from the Treasury Board and the Department of National Defence, including a senior military officer. The purpose will be to assess the results of the substantial changes made in the military pay structure in 1966 and the relation between military pay rates and those applying to civilian occupations.

FRUIT-COOKER WINS FRENCH AWARD

The federal Department of Agriculture (CDA) won the top prize at a recent international competition for the invention of food-processing techniques and machines. The award was presented by the *Revue de l'Industrie Alimentaire*, a magazine that is joint sponsor of the Paris competition.

The winning invention, a Rolltherm cooker, was developed by John Kitson, a scientist at the Agriculture Department's research station at Summerland, British Columbia. It is the first time the CDA has won a prize at the competition and, as far as departmental officials can determine, the first time a Canadian invention has placed first.

Some of the advantages of the Rolltherm cooker are that the fruit it processes has better flavour, clearer syrup and firmer flesh; the process takes about a quarter of the time taken by other machines; and the Rolltherm is cheaper than the larger, imported automatic cookers now used in Canada.

Of the four categories at the Paris competition, two were restricted to French competitors and two

were open to entries from all countries.

The international competitions were for new food products and for new materials or processes for the food industry. Mr. Kitson's entry won the latter competition.

YUKON HYDRO SURVEY

Mr. Jean Chrétien, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced recently that a report surveying the potential water-power of rivers in the central Yukon had been completed.

The survey, made over an eight-month period, involved a preliminary investigation of 43 potential hydroelectric power sites in the Yukon, at each of which an estimate was made of energy costs as well as recommendations as to the sites most favourable for future development to meet the power needs of the territory during the next decade.

FISHERMENS' INSURANCE ENDS

Immediate discontinuance of an experimental low-cost federal insurance plan to fishermen, which gave them coverage for loss of their fixed fishing-gear such as weirs, fish-traps, working and storage-buildings and equipment stored in them, was announced recently by federal Fisheries Minister Jack Davis. He said the reason for abandoning the plan was poor participation by fishermen.

The Fixed Fishing Gear and Shore Installations Indemnity Regulation, which became effective on a trial basis in most provinces on February 1, 1966, was designed to be self-supporting. Since its inception, however, losses have been greater than expected and the plan has been running at a deficit.

During the 1967-68 period, fishermen in the provinces covered by the plan purchased 350 policies for a total insured value of \$718,295, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia being the provinces where the largest number of policies were taken out. In the same period, total claims paid out amounted to \$26,313. Total of premiums collected was \$7,089.

All existing policies will be honoured, but there will be no renewals after they have expired.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index (1949-100) for Canada rose by 0.3 per cent to 156.8 in October from 156.4 in September. The October 1968 index was 4.2 per cent above its corresponding level of 150.5 in October 1967. Four of the seven main component indexes moved up since the preceding month, led by a 1.2 per cent advance in the clothing index and increases of 0.4 per cent in the housing and in the health-and-personal care components. By contrast, the food and the transportation indexes each declined by 0.4 per cent. An increase in professional fees moved the health-and-personal care component up slightly, while the tobacco and alcohol index remained unchanged from that of the previous month.