

R.M.C. REOPENS SEPTEMBER 9: After a tremendous job of renovating grounds and buildings and assembling a new staff, Canada's famous old Royal Military College is ready to receive its first class of cadets since the beginning of the war. They will report on September 9.

The old Point Frederick buildings, some of which have a history dating back to the War of 1812, will still be used, but the essentially modern College receiving the "Class of '52" will be vastly different from that to which the "Original 18" reported in 1876. Of these 18, the only survivor is ex-R.C.M.P. Commissioner A.B. Perry, of Ottawa, whose name is associated with early accounts of opening up the west.

Two years before the opening in 1876, the then Prime Minister, Alexander Mackenzie, had an Act of Parliament passed to establish the College. This was partly to overcome the military vacuum that was created in Canada by the withdrawal of many of the regular British military forces. The Prime Minister may have chosen Kingston as the site partly because he was familiar with the fortifications there. At one time during his career as a stone mason, he helped to build them.

Now the cadets - they will no longer be known as "gentlemen cadets" - will represent Navy, Army and Air Force. They are chosen on a basis of qualifying examinations and senior matriculation results. Cadets will earn their own fees by serving with units in the field or at sea at active force rates of pay during the summer months.

On entering the College, September 9, the cadets will be measured for tailored uniforms somewhat similar to the R.M.C. pre-war type except that the "pill box" hat will be replaced by the wedge cap. Belt and buttons will be changed to incorporate the new tri-service aspect. Flannels and blazers will be issued for recreational dress, sports kit for athletics and fatigue clothes for rough work.

On September 20, the Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, will preside at opening ceremonies in the presence of distinguished military and civilian visitors. He will then deliver the initial lecture of the four-year course. Cadets on graduation will be qualified for the rank of lieutenant or equivalent.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES: Department store sales increased nine per cent in July over the same month last year, while the inventories at the beginning of the month were five per cent higher, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Largest gain in sales of 18.8 per cent, was shown by household appliances and electrical supplies departments, followed by food and kindred products with a rise of 18 per cent, hardware and kitchen utensils 16.4 per cent, furniture 16.1 per cent, women's and children's apparel, 10 per cent.

CARLOADINGS: Loadings of railway revenue freight during the week ending August 21 totalled 80,254 cars, representing the second largest volume for any week this year. Increases of 4,283 cars over the preceding week and 3,647 cars over the same week of 1947 were recorded.

Eastern division loadings were 2,699 cars greater than in 1947, with grain up 210 cars, livestock 234, coal 1,631, iron and steel 322, and woodpulp and paper 207 cars heavier. In the western division, livestock jumped from 1,164 cars in 1947 to 1,656 in response to higher prices and the opening of U.S. markets. Coal was up 394 cars and building products moved in greater volume than last year. Gasoline and oils rose from 1,485 to 2,020 cars, and l.c.l. merchandise from 5,076 to 5,347 cars. Grain continued lighter than in 1947.

Receipts from foreign (U.S.) connections remained about 2,000 cars below last year at 33,985 cars compared with 35,949 in the same week last year.

HIGHER FISH LANDINGS: The volume of landings in the sea fisheries of Canada increased eight per cent in July to 139,006,000 pounds, while the value to fishermen at \$8,953,000 was 29 per cent higher, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. During the seven months ended July, landings aggregated 682,018,000 pounds compared with 533,622,000 in the same period of 1947, and the value \$30,511,000 compared with \$24,059,000.

Atlantic landings in July were up 6,500,000 pounds and the value was nearly a million dollars above that of July, 1947. The percentage increased over July last year were seven per cent in volume and 38 per cent in value. On the Pacific Coast the increase in volume was over four million pounds, and more than a million dollars in value -- 13 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively.

In the East, groundfish of all types were taken in greater quantity than a year ago. Sardines, mackerel and lobsters also recorded an increase, but the catch of herring was considerably lower. Most Pacific species were caught in greater quantity, the most noticeable increase being in salmon, where 5,000,000 pounds more were caught than in July, 1947. The pack of canned salmon to date is one of the best in recent years, all species except sockeye showing an increase.

WHOLESALE PRICES: The general index number of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, reached 152.0 in July as compared with 151.9 for June and 129.1 a year ago, according to the Bureau of Statistics. All but one of the eight sub-group indexes -- vegetable products, a decline of 2.4 -- were up over June, with the sharpest advance shown for non-metallic minerals.

AIR VICE MARSHAL MCBURNEY APPOINTMENT: The appointment of Air Vice Marshal R.E. McBurney, CBE, of Saskatoon, former Senior Canadian Air Force Liaison Officer in the United Kingdom, as Air Officer Commanding the RCAF's Maintenance Command with headquarters in Ottawa, was announced August 30 by the Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence. He replaces Air Commodore R.F. Miller, CBE, Kamloops, B.C. and (243 1st Ave.) Ottawa, who has been attached to the Canadian Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. In his new position as head of Maintenance Command, A/V/M McBurney is responsible for the maintenance and supply of all aircraft and equipment in the RCAF.

At 42, A/V/M McBurney has spent half his life with the Regular Air Force, and has been connected with the RCAF for over 24 years. Born in Montreal, he received his education in Saskatoon, and later was graduated in engineering from the University of Manitoba. He commenced flying training with the Air Force in 1924, while attending university and joined the RCAF permanent force in 1927.

At the outbreak of war he had just completed a course of the RAF Staff College in England. On his return to Canada he filled important staff positions, having command of RCAF station, Trenton, Ont., and later was Director of Signals at RCAF Headquarters, Ottawa, where he assisted the National Research Council in adapting British and American research to RCAF requirements.

In 1943 A/V/M McBurney returned to Britain to command a heavy conversion unit in Bomber Command. A few months later he was appointed to command the Base, comprising all Canadian conversion units. He also commanded a Canadian operational base and in 1944 succeeded A/C J.E. "Johnny" Fauquier as Senior Air Staff Officer of the RCAF Bomber Group.

Upon his return to Canada he was appointed AOC Maintenance Command and in June, 1946 returned to England to assume the position of Senior Canadian Air Force Liaison Officer, a position he held until taking his present appointment.

Air Vice Marshal McBurney will reside in Ottawa with his wife and two children.

NATIONAL PARKS RECORD: A record number of visitors to the National Parks of Canada for the four-month period ended July 31 was announced August 26 by the Department of Mines and Resources. The total attendance of 694,344 represented a six per cent increase over the previous all-time high of 653,881 established during the same period a year ago.

The General upward trend in travel to the Parks since the end of the war has continued this year in spite of the fact that there were fewer visitors to the far western Parks. The drop at those Parks was caused by the spring floods which made roads impassable in the earlier part of the season.

Officials of the National Parks Service pointed out that there has been an encouraging increase in the numbers of Canadians taking advantage of the varied recreational facilities in the Parks.

Jasper National Park in Alberta experienced the upward trend while Banff continued to set the pace in numbers of visitors, with 186,770 people travelling to this famous mountain region to enjoy its many attractions. This figure was 24,135 higher than that for the similar period in 1947.

The total of 694,344, includes 48,605 visitors registered at the museums maintained in eight National Historic Parks. This figure represents an increase of 7,845 over that for 1947.

BUTTER SITUATION: Creamery butter production in July reached a total of almost 42,250,000 pounds, or approximately 250,000 pounds less than in the corresponding month last year. The estimated dairy butter make was about 4,750,000 pounds, while whey butter fell to 299,000 pounds. Dairy butter make advanced 3.5 per cent above that of July, 1947. The cumulative production of total butter -- creamery, dairy and whey -- for the seven months ended July amounted to 202,500 pounds, a decrease of almost 2,500,000 pounds from last year.

The total supply of butter, represented by stocks at the beginning plus July production, amounted to approximately 78,250,000 pounds. This was a decline of about 12,000,000 pounds in comparison with the total supply reported in July, 1947. Stock holdings continue to show an adverse relationship to those of a year ago. From this point of view the situation is rather less favourable than it was a month ago; the apparent stock reduction from the previous year of 12,000,000 pounds, as recorded on July 1, being increased to a deficit of 14,500,000 pounds on August 1.

The domestic disappearance of all butter in July was the highest for any month so far this year.

TO REPRESENT CANADA: The Department of External Affairs announced August 27 the appointment of General H.D.G. Crerar, C.H., C.B., D.S.O., former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the First Canadian Army and of Mr. Pierre Dupuy, C.M.G., who is Canadian Ambassador at The Hague, as a Special Mission to represent Canada at the enthronement of Princess Juliana, as Queen of The Netherlands, on September 6.

General Crerar will be accompanied by Mrs. Crerar, and by Major H. Tellier, D.S.O., as Aide-de-Camp.

It is expected that after the enthronement of Queen Juliana, General Crerar will visit the Canadian battlefields in The Netherlands, Belgium and France.