

UNEF CONTINGENT CHANGE

The Reconnaissance Squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons, has been thanked for carrying out its job on the Egypt-Israel frontier with "care, tact and firmness". The squadron heard this tribute from the Indian Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, Lieutenant-General P.S. Gyani, during his recent informal visit to say farewell to the outfit.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons left Egypt on February 6 by "Yukon" aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force, arriving at Fredericton, New Brunswick, next day. They were replaced for patrol duties on the frontier by the reconnaissance squadron of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) from Calgary, Alberta.

General Gyani told the troopers they had shown understanding and maintained the high standard always achieved by Canadian soldiers. He said the peace force must be understanding and tolerant of the Bedouins, who had been crossing frontiers without hesitation for more than 2,000 years and could not understand why they should not continue to do so. During the year, the General went on, the RCDs had befriended these nomadic tribesmen and had received their co-operation in preventing border-crossings.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index edged up 0.1 per cent from 131.9 to 132.0 between the beginning of December 1962 and January 1963. Increases in the food, housing, and recreation-and-reading indexes outweighed decreases in the clothing and transportation indexes. The health-and-personal-care and tobacco-and-alcohol indexes were unchanged.

The food index rose 0.9 per cent, from 127.8 to 129.0, as a result of price increases on a wide range of items, including bread, sugar, citrus fruits, bananas, frozen orange juice and imported fresh vegetables. Beef and pork prices continued to decline for the third successive month, following their October 1962 peaks. Lower prices were also reported for eggs, turkey and canned vegetables.

SHELTER

The housing index increased 0.1 per cent, from 135.7 to 135.9, as the shelter component rose 0.2 per cent, but the household-operation index was unchanged. In shelter, rents were unchanged, while the home-ownership index increased. In household operation, lower prices for appliances, floor coverings and textiles balanced price increases for furniture, utensils and equipment, and household supplies.

The clothing index declined 0.9 per cent, reflecting widespread January sales for all clothing groups, particularly men's overcoats and suits, women's fur and cloth coats, and children's winter coats.

TRANSPORT

The transportation index declined 0.3 per cent, from 140.2 to 139.3 as a result of further price decreases for gasoline in Eastern Canada and some

what lower prices for new passenger cars. The local-transportation index was up slightly owing to bus-fare increases in one city.

The recreation-and-reading index increased 0.3 per cent, from 148.2 to 148.6, as higher prices for television sets and phonograph records moved the recreation component and a price increase for newspapers in one city caused a fractional rise in the reading component.

The health-and-personal-care and tobacco-and-alcohol indexes were unchanged, at 159.8 and 117.8 respectively.

MALL PROPOSED FOR BANFF

Consultants have been called on to advise on the development of a pedestrian mall on Banff Avenue in Banff Townsite, according to National Resources Minister Walter Dinsdale. He said the Ottawa firm of Balharrie, Helmer and Associates, which designed the Sparks St. mall in Ottawa, had been engaged to design the Banff mall and report on whether it was possible to establish it during the coming summer.

A SUMMER ATTRACTION

Development of the Banff mall was one of the recommendations of the Banff Urban Planning Report prepared by Dr. H.P. Oberlander, planning consultant to the National Parks Branch. The mall would be established only during the summer months and would extend between Buffalo and Cariboo Streets.

"There appears to be general agreement on the Banff mall, and we hope to give it a practical trial this summer" Mr. Dinsdale said. "However, we will await the report of the consultants before deciding whether it will be possible to try the mall on an experimental basis this year. The report should be ready in about eight weeks."

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

The number of births registered in Canada in 1962 was little changed from the preceding year, while the number of deaths increased slightly, according to preliminary totals released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of marriages showed a small decline.

THE CRADLE

These estimates, which are based on the number of records filed in provincial offices during the year, indicate that, when final returns are in, about 476,000 babies will have been born during 1962 in the ten provinces and two territories, about the same number as in the preceding year but fewer than the record 479,275 born in 1959 and the 478,551 born in 1960.

Final returns are expected to show that there were increases in births in five provinces (Newfoundland, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Alberta and Quebec) and decreases in the remainder. The two territories are also expected to show gains. The 1962 national birth rate (per 1,000 population) is estimated at 25.6, the lowest since the Second World War and the fifth consecutive annual decline from 28.2 in 1957.

(Over)