

## ROYAL CHRISTENING SET

Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced recently that he had personally presented, on behalf of the Canadian people, a sterling silver baby-set to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as a christening gift for the infant Prince Andrew.

The set was designed and produced by Canadians and made of Canadian silver. The maple leaf is the main motif. The beaver is reproduced on the handles of the porringer and the mug. The maple-leaf motif is chased round the edge of the serving plate, the porringer and the mug. The Dominion coat-of-arms and the provincial crests have been engraved underneath the maple-leaf motif on the porringer and the mug.

The young Prince was christened Andrew Albert Christian Edward on April 8. The Canadian gift was left with the Queen for her son by the Prime Minister on May 4.

\* \* \* \*

## EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEETS

Expansion of the scope of the Municipal Winter Works Incentive Programme to include projects not at present authorized by the federal-provincial-municipal agreement was recommended by the National Employment Committee at the second session of its 74th meeting in Ottawa, on May 13.

In the resolution adopted by the Committee for reference to the Unemployment Insurance Commission, it was also recommended that the Federal Government announce plans for municipal incentive programmes earlier in the year than had previously been the case, in order that municipalities might have more time in which to plan projects to be undertaken during the winter months.

At the same time the Committee commended the Government on the success of its policy of earlier announcement in 1959 than was the case in 1958, as evidenced by the increased amount of employment afforded by the plan during the 1959-1960 season to date.

The Committee passed a resolution recommending that the Unemployment Insurance Commission broaden the field covered by the programme of seminars being conducted by the Commission to familiarize employers more thoroughly with the regulations governing employment and unemployment insurance, and to obtain from employers their suggestions on ways in which the National Employment Service might more adequately meet their manpower requirements.

At present seminars are being held in co-operation with the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association throughout their industry from Newfoundland to the Lakehead, with plans in view to extend the programme to the construction industry. The Committee urged that seminars be organized to cover still other industries in Canada.

## NEW ARMY RADIO

The new British-designed very high frequency FM radio recently adopted by the Canadian Army is expected to become available for regular forces in Canada in June.

Replacing the old Second World War signals "19-set", the new radio will fill a much-needed communications requirement in the Army's national survival plans, as well as performing its normal operational role. It is known officially as the "C-42 (VHF Transceiver)".

A limited number of the new sets already are available in Canada for preliminary instructional purposes. They also are being displayed in some localities as part of modern survival equipment.

Described as a "15-mile vehicle set," the C-42 will be used in conjunction with two smaller radios now standard equipment in the Army. They are the one-mile and five-mile pack sets, both Canadian designed. All these can be used separately or together. Range of the British designed and produced 15-mile vehicle set can be increased to 25 miles by use of elevated antennae.

The new set is of robust construction and sealed against dust and moisture. It was built specifically for military use. Battery-powered, it can be operated either from vehicle batteries or a separate radio storage battery. Repair and maintenance under field conditions are relatively easy.

Army communication experts describe the set as ideally suited to use in national survival operations.

\* \* \* \*

## NEW HOMES BUILT

Beginnings on the construction of new residential units decreased in the first quarter of this year from the same period last year, while completions increased, according to advance figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Fewer units were under construction at the end of March this year than last.

All-Canada starts in the January-March period decreased to 11,118 units from 16,365 in the corresponding period of 1959, while completions increased to 28,783 units from 24,697. Units in various stages of construction at the end of March numbered 63,797 compared to last year's corresponding total of 78,915.

Starts in centres of 5,000 population and over in this year's first quarter fell to 8,848 units from 14,350 a year earlier, while completions rose to 21,759 units from 20,349. March starts in these centres were down to 2,996 units from 5,496 in the same 1959 month and completions to 6,242 units from 7,456. Fewer units were under construction in these areas at the end of March, at 46,640 units against 56,250.