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**\$24.2 BILLION NATIONAL PRODUCT**

with last year, the total of consumer expenditure was up by 6 per cent both in value and volume.

Government expenditure on goods and services in the third quarter amounted to \$1.2 billion, about 8% above the third quarter of a year ago. This increase was split evenly between price and volume increases. Federal Government defence expenditure was the principal item in this increase.

The level of new residential construction continued very high in the third quarter, being 25 per cent above the third quarter of a year ago, almost entirely accounted for by volume gains.

Investment in new non-residential construction was 10 per cent above a year ago in the third quarter, but as there were some price increases, the volume gain was only 5 per cent. New machinery and equipment purchases were approximately 6 per cent above a year ago in value and 4 per cent higher in volume. The seasonally adjusted value data show increases between the second and third quarters for both non-residential construction and machinery and equipment. The book value of business inventories continued to show a positive accumulation in the third quarter. Volume changes were of comparable magnitude, as there was very little price change for inventories in general. Changes in all business stocks, from a year ago, were in proportion to the increases in non-farm output of goods and services.

The seasonally adjusted data on imports of goods and services show a small decline between the second and third quarters. Seasonally adjusted exports of goods and services on the other hand, increased fractionally so that there was a tendency toward narrowing of the deficit in the third quarter.

High levels of personal income in the third quarter were reflected in continued high level of personal saving, which amounted to \$1.4 billion (seasonally adjusted at annual rates) in the third quarter. If farm inventory changes are excluded, the above figure becomes \$1.6 billion, which was 10 per cent of disposable income exclusive of farm inventory changes.

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**PETROLEUM AGAIN UP:** Canadian output of refined petroleum products rose again in August, totalling 13,432,000 barrels as compared with 12,241,000 in the corresponding month last year. There were production gains for most of the principal products.

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**"VAN DOOS" WINNERS:** A 40-man team of officers and men of the 3rd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment, led by Lt. Marc Soucie of Quebec City, won the five-mile "Forced march" competition held recently in Korea by all major units of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

**BRIG. ROCKINGHAM'S APPOINTMENT:** Brigadier J.M. Rockingham, CB, CBE, DSO, ED, who has just completed a year's course at the Imperial Defence College in the United Kingdom, has been appointed commander of the newly formed 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade, Canadian Army Headquarters announced on December 21.

Brigadier Rockingham is scheduled to arrive back in Canada shortly.

Headquarters of the 3rd Infantry Brigade is now located at Valcartier, Que.

Brigadier Rockingham was recalled from civilian life in 1950 to become the first commander of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade in Korea. For his services in the Far East he was made a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

He returned to Canada in April, 1952, as Director General of Military Training at Army Headquarters in Ottawa and sailed for the United Kingdom the following November to attend the Imperial Defence College.

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**PORT OF CHURCHILL:** The Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, announced on December 21 that the grain storage facilities at the National Harbours Board elevators at the Port of Churchill, Man., will be increased from 2,500,000 to 5,000,000 bushels. The estimated cost of the addition to the storage facilities is around \$2,000,000 and work is to commence in 1954.

The Minister stated that with the increase in elevator capacity from 2,500,000 to 5,000,000 bushels it would be possible, without any increase in grain galleries, loading berths etc., to ship a maximum potential of 20,000,000 bushels of grain through the Port of Churchill. He pointed out that in the 1953 shipping season at Churchill, 31 ships moved 10,784,446 bushels of grain to overseas ports.

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**EMPLOYMENT, PAY RECORDS:** Canada's industrial employment and payrolls indexes rose to all-time peaks at the beginning of October, and average weekly earnings continued to climb, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The industrial employment index for October 1, on the 1949 base, stood at 116.8 as compared with 116.6 a month earlier and 116.4 a year ago, and the payrolls index was 158.5 as compared with 157.0 at September 1 and 148.9 at October 1, 1952.

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Sample surveys show families in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver spent an average \$6.78 per person per week on food in the first half of 1953, \$7.52 in the last four months of 1952.

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Public library borrowers in Canada read an average of 18 books each per year.