

**PAY INCREASES FOR ARMED FORCES:** Pay increases for Canada's armed forces were announced on November 20 concurrently with announcement of increased remuneration for most civil servants. The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, said:

"In keeping with the policy of maintaining rates of remuneration in the Forces on a level with those in industrial employment, rates of pay for members of the Forces will be increased effective December 1, 1953.

"Under the new rates of pay men in the Forces will have decidedly better prospects of achieving higher incomes with length of service and development of earning power through trades training or capacity to take on the responsibilities of non-commissioned officer rank. The starting rates for a single man will be \$153 a month, where rations and quarters are not provided and without promotion to higher rank he will be able to reach a salary by taking advantage of the trades training opportunities offered in the service of \$283 a month as a married man. If he develops an ability to direct other men there are ample opportunities for promotion. Without attaining commissioned officer rank he may by promotion reach a salary, if he is married, of \$366 to \$426 a month, depending on the trades skill he has acquired by that time.

#### ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGES

"Service in the Forces offers many additional financial advantages. The men are completely outfitted with clothing when they join and receive a clothing allowance of \$10 a month after that. Every man receives medical and dental care without cost to himself. There is a pension scheme to provide the man and his dependents with retirement income. The Government contributes an amount equal to 10% of the man's salary, plus the value of clothing, medical and dental care, and this is over and above the amount covered by the man's contribution. For a married private at the \$283 rate that would amount to an additional \$29.80 a month. Paid holidays of thirty days a year are given. Foreign allowances of from \$9 to \$16 a month are paid to men serving abroad and additional allowances are paid if they are married and accompanied by their dependents. These additional allowances are from \$10 to \$100 a month depending on the country in which they are serving.

"The new scales provide monthly increases in trades pay ranging from \$4 in group one to \$20 in group four, the highest trade grouping of the Armed Forces.

"Progressive pay for private first class and equivalent is raised from \$3 to \$10 after three years' service. As a result the total increase in the basic rate of a private who has three years' service will be \$16 per month without taking into account any additional amount he may receive if he is qualified for trades pay.

**NEW APPROACH TO OLD AGE:** "One of the problems of an ageing population is that of finding useful and productive employment for older persons still willing and able to work," said the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, in addressing the Central Council of the Canadian Red Cross Society in Toronto on November 23.

"Although a man's calendar age may bear little relationship to his ability to do a job, it has become increasingly difficult after a certain age to find suitable employment in industry. If we are to prevent one of the greatest wastes in our use of manpower, I believe that we will have to readapt our whole attitude to the employment of older workers.

"Employment, of course, is only one aspect of the question. In health, too, there are many problems that are characteristic of older people...

"Besides health, there are all the problems of housing, education, the productive use of leisure time, and the whole range of individualized home and community services which are an integral part of any programme for the aged. To these and other problems in this field, I cannot suggest and do not know the final answers. They will require careful thought and study by us all. They will challenge the best efforts of private and public agencies alike.

"But this I do know: It is our obligation and our privilege to do what we can to develop a social climate in which our people will look forward to old age, not as a time of barrenness and desolation, but as a time of rich fulfilment. In the years ahead, with all their problems and preoccupations, the place of our senior citizens in our society must be made a social matter of high priority. It is one of our tasks to do everything we can to bring new meaning and value to the last of life for which the first was made."

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**HOUSING INCREASE:** The upward trend in the construction of new dwelling units was continued in September when 10,208 were started as compared with 8,529 in the corresponding month last year, and 8,643 were completed as compared with 5,819. In the January-September period this year, starts increased to 79,671 from 62,040 in the same 1952 period, and the completions rose to 62,407 from 46,785. Under construction at the end of September were 73,055 dwelling units as compared with 59,113 a year ago.

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**FAMILY FOOD COSTS:** Family food expenditures in the census metropolitan areas of Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver during the first six months of this year averaged \$6.78 per person per week for the five areas combined, according to the second release of a continuing sample survey of urban food expenditures by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.