

U.S. EXERCISES IN CANADA: The United States Army Medical Department's second winter field exercise in Canada will be carried out this year during the month of February in the vicinity of Camp Shilo, Manitoba, the Defence Department announced on January 27.

A similar exercise was held last year in sub-zero temperatures in this area, where climate and terrain are specially suitable for the type of training involved and for the service testing of medical equipment.

Some 53 enlisted men with five officers, one warrant officer and three Army nurses will make up the United States exercise group this year. One RCAF medical officer, one non-medical Canadian Army officer and one nursing sister of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps will also participate.

The American party will reach Camp Shilo on February 1 in two groups from their headquarters at Percy Jones Military Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich., one group travelling by rail and the other by road convoy.

The exercise and trials are expected to last one month, with all parties returning to the United States on March 2.

EXERCISE "SWEETBRIAR": Brief statements on Exercise "Sweetbriar" were issued in the United States and Canada on January 27 by Hon. Louis Johnson, U.S. Secretary of Defence, and the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

Mr. Johnson said: "Exercise Sweetbriar, held as it will be on both United States and Canadian soil and with more than 5,000 Army and Air Force troops of both countries participating, exemplifies the spirit of mutual defence set forth under the North Atlantic Treaty. It is the first joint manoeuvre and the largest ever held to test logistic facilities and to provide tactical training under mid-winter conditions in the sub-Arctic. It involves battalion combat teams and both tactical and carrier air support. I have every reason to feel that Exercise Sweetbriar will be a success when Armed Forces of the United States and Canada plan together, work together, and take part in joint manoeuvres. They bring all of us in both countries more closely together. Out of that association, I am sure, will come not only a better joint defence but a deeper appreciation for each other."

Mr. Claxton said: "Exercise Sweetbriar will take place on both American and Canadian soil in continuation of the policy of cooperation in military matters existing between our two countries as one of the regional groups under the North Atlantic Treaty. An important part of the training has already been carried out by the Canadians at Wainwright in Northeastern Alberta, and in the movement more than a thousand miles by motor vehicle from there beyond Whitehorse. Senior United States and Canadian officers will command troops of both countries and it is expected that valuable

lessons will be learned in joint techniques of command and cooperation. Exercise Sweetbriar is an exercise in working together and in long distance movements in extreme weather conditions."

SUPPORT FOR EGG PRICES: The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, announced on January 26 that the Government, through the Agricultural Prices Support Board, will take action to stabilize the egg market by supporting a shortage program for 1950.

Under the plan, the Agricultural Prices Support Board is committed to buy, at the termination of the storage period, late in 1950, all eggs then unsold which had been stored according to Board specifications, during the period January to early June of this year.

The Board will pay, at all storage points in Canada, 38 cents per dozen for eggs stored as Grade A Large and 36 cents per dozen for eggs stored as Grade A Medium, plus a stipulated allowance to cover costs.

It is anticipated this action will provide a floor price to producers, at egg stations, of approximately 30 to 32 cents per dozen, basis Grade A Large, depending on shipping costs from station to storage.

In making the announcement Mr. Gardiner pointed out that this action was taken to assist the poultry industry in the adjustment to conditions created by discontinuance of British egg buying in Canada.

Under this program the Government will not participate directly in the egg business. The storing and merchandising of eggs will remain in the hands of the industry. The Government offer to buy any otherwise unsaleable eggs at the end of the storage season will, however, provide the same stabilizing influence as operated under British contracts when the Government contracted to buy eggs out of storage in the fall months for delivery to Britain.

Egg prices, he said, have been seriously depressed since buying for British account ceased on December 17. Without some measure of support through Government action this depressed condition would continue through the surplus producing period of the first half of the year. This could lead to an extreme liquidation of laying flocks, followed by a shortage of eggs and a prolonged period of high prices.

WEARING OF "CANADA" BADGES: Naval Headquarters announced on January 26 that "Canada" badges would be worn by officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Under the new regulations, "Canada" badges will be worn on all uniforms, including great-coats. They will be worn on both sleeves, the top of the letters being a half inch below the shoulder seam.