

DEFENCE MINISTER ADDRESSES INFANTRYMEN: At the annual meeting of the Canadian Infantry Association held at the Seignior Club on September 27, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton appointed Brigadier Sherwood Lett, CEE, DSO, MC, ED, Honorary Commandant of the Infantry Corps, Mr. Claxton spoke of Brigadier Lett as representing "the ideal we want of the soldier citizen and citizen soldier who has served his country alike in the paths of peace and on the field of battle."

"In our defence forces," Mr. Claxton said, "the reserve forms an essential and important part.... The reserve army.... was the framework on which we were able to build the Canadian Expeditionary Forces of 1914-1918 and the Active Service Forces of 1939-1945.... At the end of (the Second World) War.... no less than 98% of the unit commanders were chosen from the reserve army.... Today the reserve army has a strength of nearly 39,000. During this next year our target should be to increase it by about 20%."

After briefly outlining the historic role in warfare of the infantry, "the oldest of military forces", Mr. Claxton quoted Field Marshal Montgomery and General Eisenhower to emphasize the fact of the infantry's continuing importance in modern war in spite of the development of air power and the atomic bomb.

"In the reserve army today," the Minister said, "we have 65 infantry battalions located in towns and cities from coast to coast.... There are in the active forces three infantry regiments - the well-known Princess Patricia Infantry Regiment, the Royal Canadian Regiment, and the Royal 22nd Regiment.... These great regiments, all of them with historic aims and fine regimental traditions deserve well of the Canadian people.... I put at the highest level their claims for the enthusiastic support of the people of our country."

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER IN OTTAWA: On October 1, Mr. Robert Schuman, Foreign Minister of France, flew from New York to Ottawa, where he was met by Mr. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare. After laying a wreath on the National War Memorial, Mr. Schuman called on the Deputy Governor General, the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, and later visited the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, by whom he was entertained at luncheon at the Country Club.

In the afternoon Mr. Schuman called on Mr. King at Laurier House, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, and Monseigneur Vachon, Archbishop of Ottawa. An honorary degree was later conferred on Mr. Schuman by the University of Ottawa.

A dinner and reception were held in Mr. Schuman's honour at the French Embassy by the Ambassador, His Excellency Hubert Guérin. Mr. Schuman left by air on Sunday morning for Quebec City.

NORTH ATLANTIC DEFENCE: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, is representing Canada at the meeting of the Defence Committee of the North Atlantic Pact nations at Washington, D.C., which opened on October 5. The Defence Committee consists of the Defence Ministers of the 12 nations signatory to the Pact.

Mr. Claxton is accompanied by Lt.-Gen. Charles Foulkes, CB, CBE, DSO, Chairman of the Canadian Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the General Staff of the Canadian Army, together with Air Vice Marshal C.R. Dunlap, CBE, Commodore R.E.S. Bidwell, CBE, and the secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, Brig. J.D.B. Smith, CBE, DSO, as well as officers of the Department of External Affairs.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX DOWN: The Bureau of Statistics reported on October 5 that the cost-of-living index declined from 162.8 to 162.3 between August 1 and September 1, 1949, showing the first decline since March this year. As has been the case for several months the change was due principally to foods, which declined 2.2 points after rising 10.7 points in the preceding four months.

The latest index standing was 3.4 points above last year's 158.9. This 12-month increase compares with a rise of 19.5 points between September 1 in 1947 and 1948. From August 1939 to September 1949 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 61.0 per cent.

The drop in the food index from 209.2 at August 1 to 207.9 was mainly of a seasonal nature, with declines occurring in vegetables, lamb, beef, pork, eggs and oranges. The clothing index rose from 183.2 to 183.5, following the appearance of the fall lines of woollens and footwear while fuel and light advanced 0.6 points to 130.1, as a result of slightly higher prices for coal and coke.

Rentals moved from 123.4 to 123.9, while homefurnishings and services remained unchanged at 167.4.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND THE CNR: The inauguration of an all-Canadian telegraph route between Newfoundland and the rest of Canada was announced recently by W.M. Armstrong, general manager, Canadian National Telegraphs.

The CNT now operates direct telegraph circuits between the island and principal cities on the mainland, with connections by the Canadian company to other parts of the world.

For the first time since Confederation, Newfoundland train and steamship services have been included in the familiar blue folder or system time-table of the Canadian National Railways. The latest edition of this folder is now being distributed to offices throughout Canada and the United States.