

was taken out to the position off Halifax where she had torpedoed HMCS "Esquimalt". There, "Seafire" and "Firefly" aircraft of the RCN's 883 and 826 Squadrons attacked with rockets and bombs as HMC Ships "Haida" and "Nootka" (destroyers) and "New Liskeard" (Algerine) prepared to open fire. The U-boat lasted only minutes and "Haida" and "Nootka" barely managed to fire their opening salvos before she sank.

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### REGIONAL PRICE INDEXES

Consumer price indexes declined in five of ten regional cities during February and March 1961, with decreases ranging from 0.1 per cent both in Saint John and Toronto to 0.3 per cent in Montreal. The Halifax index was unchanged, while increases in the other four regional cities ranged from 0.1 per cent in Winnipeg to 0.5 per cent in Ottawa.

Food indexes were lower in eight of the ten regional cities, with only the St. John's and Winnipeg indexes at higher levels. Shelter indexes were unchanged in four cities, down in four and up fractionally in the remaining two regional cities. Clothing indexes advanced in nine of the cities; the Halifax index was slightly lower. Household-operation indexes rose in six cities and declined in the other four. Indexes for "other" commodities and services were up in three cities, down in four, and unchanged in the remaining three.

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### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Fewer births, marriages and deaths were registered in provincial offices in March this year than last. The totals in the January-March period were higher for births and lower for marriages and deaths. The month's registrations were: births, 37,576 (39,524 a year earlier); marriages, 5,163 (7,721); and deaths, 11,507 (13,069). January-March totals: births, 115,656 (115,497 a year ago); marriages, 18,899 (23,447); and deaths, 35,628 (36,098).

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### GOLD PRODUCTION

Conditions throughout the gold-mining industry in 1960 were more favorable than in the preceding year, with the result that gold production increased. Prices also rose, the Royal Canadian Mint annual average being about 36 cents a fine troy ounce higher than in 1959. An upswing in the price of gold that occurred late in the year on international markets brought an increase in the earnings of gold mines selling on the open market.

A 1958 amendment to the Emergency Gold assistance Act had raised cost assistance to qualifying mines by 25 per cent, and an additional amendment, passed in 1960, extended these benefits for three years - to the end of 1963. To obtain cost assistance under the Act, Canadian gold mines must sell directly to the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa. Of the 54 lode-gold mines in operation during the year, 42 received this cost assistance. The others, because their costs were lower, did not qualify. Most of the non-qualifying lode-gold mines sold on the open market, where about half of Canada's 1960 gold production was available for sale.

### COSTS OF EXTRACTION

Labor costs were higher, but the rise caused in the Mint price by the decline in the value of the Canadian dollar in relation to the United States dollar helped the industry to meet them. Material and power costs were also higher. Had it not been for the increase in the Mint price of gold and in the cost assistance provided for in the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, many older mines, faced with a decline in ore reserves and having access only to lower-grade ore, would have been unable to continue operations. Three mines were closed during 1960, and two new mines began operations.

An estimate of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics places the year's gold production at 4,602,762 fine troy ounces valued at \$156,171,715. The final total for 1959 was 4,483,416 fine ounces valued at \$150,508,275. In 1960, the volume produced was the highest since 1942 and the value was the highest since 1955, when an ounce of fine gold was valued at \$34.52. Production increased in all producing provinces. Ontario, with 59 per cent of the total, remained the principal producer, followed by Quebec with 23 per cent, the Northwest Territories with 9 per cent and British Columbia with 4 per cent.