

SOLDIERS' ANNUAL CHECK-UPS: This month some 17,000 members of the Active Force of the Army are sweating out medical re-examinations and annual x-rays which, for some, may determine whether or not they remain in the Service.

The physical check-up is routine and performed each year about this time. Few, if any, soldiers are discharged as a result of the medical examinations or x-rays. Some, however, at the medical officer's suggestion, are recommended for treatment of minor illnesses which might at a later date result in lengthy hospitalization or complete loss of the man's services.

"They know it's routine and for their own good," one Army doctor said, "but many soldiers worry from the time they are warned to report for a check-up until they are passed as sound."

Some soldiers report the "medical" as being even stiffer than the complete examination given them at the time they first entered the Army. Others say it's not so tough. All agree that it's most thorough.

CANADIANS LEAVE SHANGHAI: The Department of External Affairs announced December 3 that arrangements have been made by which some eighty Canadians now in Shanghai will shortly return to Canada by air.

The principal problem which at present confronts Canadians who wish to leave Shanghai is one of transportation. The eighty persons involved in this movement are not financially distressed and are travelling at their own expense. The Department of External Affairs has arranged for the chartering of two aircraft, the obtaining of necessary landing rights for the aircraft, and the solution of certain problems of foreign exchange which have resulted from the intending passengers being unable readily to obtain United States funds in China.

The Department of External Affairs has not yet been informed by its Officers in China of the names of the passengers. The first aircraft with forty passengers aboard is expected to arrive at Vancouver between December 12 and 16.

HIGHWAYS IN 1946: An annual average of 5,200 miles have been added to Canada's network of highways during the 25 years from 1922 to 1946. The mileage at the end of 1946, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics was 553,000 as compared with 423,000 in 1922; an overall increase of 130,000 miles.

During this period the mileage of surfaced roads increased from 48,695 to 140,049 miles, the 1946 total comprising 121,813 miles of gravel and crushed stone surface, 8,698 miles bituminous surface, 6,931 miles bituminous pavement, 2,485 miles portland cement concrete, and 122 miles of other surfaces. Improved earth mileage was 136,870, and other earth 276,044 miles.

Total estimated expenditures by all author-

ities on the construction, maintenance and administration of Canada's highway systems and rural roads, including bridges and ferries, amounted to \$144,469,000 during 1946, an increase of nearly 72 per cent over the total of \$84,165,000 for 1945, a large part of the increase representing construction and maintenance postponed during the war years. Provincial outlays climbed from \$73,536,000 in 1945 to \$126,611,000, with construction up \$44,300,000. Federal expenditures, due mainly to the taking over of the Alaska Highway in April, 1946, from the United States Army, rose from \$1,073,581 to \$6,293,419. Municipal expenditures were also heavier, increasing from \$9,441,779 to \$11,266,811.

Expenditures on construction of roads, bridges and ferries totalled \$80,589,000 in 1946, while outlays on maintenance amounted to \$58,247,000 and on administration to \$5,633,000.

Expenditures in Ontario in 1946 totalled \$49,478,000, Quebec \$37,601,000, Alberta \$12,049,000, New Brunswick \$11,750,000, British Columbia \$9,506,000, Nova Scotia \$8,214,000, Saskatchewan \$6,323,000, Northwest Territories \$4,439,000, Manitoba \$3,644,000, and Prince Edward Island \$1,466,000.

SUGAR INDUSTRY: Canadian production of refined sugar in 1947 was 14 per cent higher than in the preceding year, amounting to 1,084,710,000 pounds as compared with 959,945,000, according to the annual review of the industry by the Bureau of Statistics.

The production of cane sugar increased by 174,281,000 pounds, and that of beet sugar decreased by 49,517,000. Granulated sugar comprised 84 per cent of the total. The price of refined sugar at the factory increased from 6.14 cents in 1946 to 7.14 cents.

The gross value of the products of the industry was \$80,194,000 as compared with \$61,182,000 in the preceding year. Salaries and wages totalling \$6,309,000 were paid to 3,003 employees as compared with \$5,011,000 paid to 2,633 employees in 1946.

There were 11 refineries in operation during the year located as follows: Nova Scotia one, New Brunswick one, Quebec three, Ontario two, Manitoba one, Alberta two, and British Columbia one.

MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS: Continuing the rise shown in the preceding month, factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles in October reached the highest monthly figure since March. The month's shipments, however, were slightly below October last year.

Figures released by the Bureau of Statistics place shipments in the month at 25,057 units compared with 23,775 in September and 25,479 in October last year. In March this year the total was 27,112. During the first 10 months of this year, 210,079 units were shipped

as compared with 213,465 in the same period last year.

October shipments comprised 18,017 passenger cars and 7,040 commercial vehicles. Of the former, 13,184 were made for sale in Canada and 4,833 for export, while of the latter 5,545 were for sale in Canada and 1,495 for export.

During the 10 months ending October, 107,806 passenger models were shipped for sale in Canada and 22,003 for export. In the same period, 61,021 commercial vehicles were shipped for sale in Canada and 19,249 for export.

STEEL INGOT PRODUCTION: Canadian production of steel ingots moved to a higher level in October. The Bureau of Statistics reports that 272,127 tons were produced as against 248,622 in September and 247,171 in October last year. This was the highest since May this year, when it stood at 279,688 tons. Output for the first 10 months of this year was also above 1947, totalling 2,550,228 tons as against 2,366,682.

Daily average output in October was 8,778 tons, higher than the September daily figure of 8,288 tons, but well in advance of the daily average of 7,973 for October, 1947. The October daily average was above previous months since May, when the daily rate amounted to 9,022 tons. Daily average output for the year to date was 8,361 tons as against 7,785 in the similar period last year.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT UP: The trend of industrial employment in Canada continued moderately upward at the beginning of October, when 19,359 larger establishments in the eight major industrial divisions reported an increase of 0.4 per cent in their working forces. The gain in number of employees was accompanied by a rise of 2.7 per cent in payrolls. The rise in the payrolls resulted mainly from the payment of higher wage rates in many establishments, together with a return to more normal working conditions following the vacation season, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

The index number of employment rose from its previous all-time maximum to 201.8 at September 1 to 202.6 at October 1, when it exceeded by four per cent the figure of 194.8 recorded at October 1, 1947. During the war years the highest index for the beginning of October was that of 187.5 in 1943. The increase indicated at October 1 took place mainly among women, for whom employment rose by 1.7 per cent. The male staffs of the reporting firms were slightly higher than at September 1.

Industrial activity generally was at a higher level than at September 1 in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but curtailment was reported by leading firms in the Maritime Provinces and in Alberta and British Columbia. Industrially, there was important expansion in logging, in which the number added to the working forces approximated that at

October 1 last year.

Manufacturing, transportation and trade also showed improvement, the gain in trade being on quite a large scale. On the other hand, the trend was unfavourable in mining, communications, construction and hotels and restaurants. The losses in construction were considerable, but those in the remaining divisions were moderate. In manufacturing, the most outstanding changes were the increase of some 6.6 per cent in vegetable food processing, and the substantial contractions, also seasonal in character, in animal foods, lumber and paper mills.

The average earnings of the workers on the staffs of the co-operating employers amounted to \$41.78 at October 1 as compared with \$40.86 at September 1. The latest figure is the highest in the record of over seven years.

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION: Canadians and visitors to Canada spent a grand total of \$525,000,000 on alcoholic beverages during the 12 months ending March, 1947, the latest period for which country-wide figures are available, it is estimated by the Bureau of Statistics. More than half of this sum was returned to the federal and provincial Governments as duties, taxes and other revenue.

Direct sales by provincial Liquor Control Boards or their agents aggregated \$427,000,000. To this amount must be added the mark-up on sales by persons licensed in some provinces to re-sell certain beverages to the public, placed at \$98,000,000.

During the fiscal year ending March this year, the apparent consumption of beer and spirits in Canada was still on the increase, while the consumption of wine showed a drop. Estimated consumption of spirits during the 12 months amounted to 7,320,000 proof gallons compared with 6,543,000 in 1947; of beer, 165,743,000 gallons compared with 146,981,000; and native and imported wine, 5,214,000 gallons compared with 5,584,000.

Production of spirits during the 12 months ending March this year amounted to 28,198,000 proof gallons as compared with 21,571,000 in the preceding year. Production of beer was 173,202,000 gallons as compared with 155,801,000.

Imports of spirits advanced from 2,097,000 proof gallons in the fiscal year ended March, 1947 to 2,691,000, beer from 17,000 gallons to 37,000, but wine imports fell from 929,000 gallons to 619,000. Exports of Canadian-made spirits fell from 4,758,000 proof gallons to 3,843,000, beer from 4,109,000 gallons to 4,024,000; wine exports rose from 30,000 gallons to 41,000.

Excise and import duties, validation fees and licenses on spirits collected by the federal Government during the fiscal year ending March, 1948 aggregated \$84,945,000 (a new peak figure) compared with \$78,377,000 in the preceding year.