

## RCAF's \$400,000,000 PROGRAMME ON SCHEDULE

**BUILT FOR FUTURE.** The RCAF's vast construction programme across Canada, expected to cost an estimated \$400,000,000 before completion next year, is making good progress, it was announced on September 15 by Air Force Headquarters.

Shortages of materials and other obstacles have set back certain individual parts of the programme but generally the whole construction effort is well up to or ahead of schedule.

Considered the backbone of the RCAF's expansion, the building programme stretches across Canada and involves construction or expansion of both operational flying and training stations, supply and repair depots, command and station headquarters, radar stations, and many other projects.

### LENGTHENING RUNWAYS

A major item of the construction programme has been and is the lengthening of runways at stations already in operation, and at re-activated wartime stations. This has been necessitated by requirements of modern jet fighters and heavy transport aircraft. Majority of the wartime-built runways were required only to serve light training aircraft.

One of the big problems facing Air Force authorities and their consulting architects has been the task of devising structures which will not be outmoded in the near future, but yet which are not prohibitive in cost. The problem has been solved by dividing new construction into three types, according to the length of time and the degree to which it is felt the RCAF will require the use of the station or buildings concerned.

Among the most complicated items included in the building programme are newly-designed hangars, being built at numerous airfields. Largest of the three standard types of hangars is the cantilever model, constructed to house the big aircraft of today and of the future. The hangar is so constructed as to provide a good deal of office, working and storage space which would otherwise require separate buildings and is also designed to allow ready expansion with an eye to bigger aircraft in the future. The standard cantilever type costs close to 4 million dollars.

New bombing and gunnery ranges also account for a sizeable part of the total building

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**ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL MONUMENT.** The Department of Resources and Development has announced that a cut-stone monument bearing a bronze tablet has been erected in the grounds of the Bell homestead near Brantford, Ontario, home of the famed inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell. It was unveiled on Saturday, September 12, at 3:00 p.m., by Mrs. Lillian Grosvenor Coville, a grand-daughter of the inventor.

costs. These must be located in areas where increased firepower of modern fighters can be tested and practised without interruption or fear of damage to persons or built-up areas. One of the most notable of these is being built at Cold Lake, Alta., and the range will cover an area approximately 115 by 40 miles. Involving construction of an entirely new station, and expected to cost about 30 million dollars, this range is being carved out of scrub land 100 miles north of Lloydminster, Sask.

It is one of the biggest single projects in the current construction programme and when finished, will be one of the world's largest air training centres of its type. The range will be used for bombing and gunnery operations, and can also be used in connection with the development and evaluation of various forms of weapons, including air-to-air rockets. Despite development of the range, the Air Force will still require bombing and gunnery ranges at other points for local use by both regular and reserve fighter squadrons.

### RADAR STATIONS

New permanent radar stations now are in use, and account for another large part of the building cost total. Sites for these stations have been determined mainly by their place in the overall radar screen and often their inaccessibility has made much pre-construction work necessary. Roads have been laid in to the sites through virgin country, water systems from nearby lakes developed, power stations and transmission lines erected and many other services provided for these new outposts of defence.

The new flying training schools, located on the Prairies, have made their appearance on the sites of wartime training stations. Numerous Department of Transport airfields across Canada are being overhauled for the RCAF to ensure that they can handle Service requirements. Some of these were used by TCA before it introduced heavy, long-range aircraft that rendered the fields inadequate.

The unprecedented peace-time demands on the RCAF, both for NATO training and for active defence, has necessitated this vast construction programme.

**JULY CHEQUES \$12 BILLION:** Value of cheques cashed in 35 clearing centres across Canada rose nearly 12 per cent in July to \$12,251,000,000 from \$10,945,000,000 in the corresponding month last year. This raised the cumulative total for the first seven months of 1953 to \$82,545,763,000, close to 13 per cent above the \$79,510,622,000 in the like 1952 period. Increases were shown in all five economic areas both in July and the seven-month period.