

7-MONTH "SURPLUS" \$266 MILLION: Budgetary revenues in October amounted to \$362.4 million or \$2.2 million less than in October, 1952 while budgetary expenditures for the month were \$296.5 million compared with \$367.6 million for October a year ago, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on November 28.

"The decrease of \$71.1 million is due primarily to the fact that there was no item in October, 1953 comparable to the payment to Ontario of \$61.7 million in October last year, representing two quarterly instalments under the tax rental agreement signed by that Province on October 29, 1952," he said. "In 1953-54 the regular quarterly instalments under the agreement were paid to Ontario in June and September. For October the budgetary surplus was \$65.9 million compared with a deficit of \$3 million in October, 1952."

"For the first seven months of the current fiscal year, budgetary revenues totalled \$2,451 million or \$86.3 million more than for the same period last year. Budgetary expenditures amounted to \$2,185 million or \$108.2 million more than in the seven-month period of 1952. For the fiscal year to date, revenues have averaged \$350.1 million per month or \$12.3 million more per month than in the corresponding period in 1952 while expenditures have averaged \$312.1 million per month or \$15.4 million per month more than last year. The budgetary surplus of \$266 million for the first seven months of 1953-54 was \$21.9 million less than the surplus for the corresponding period a year ago.

"Pension payments out of the Old Age Security Fund (which are in addition to budgetary expenditures) totalled \$28.4 million for October 1953, and tax receipts credited to the Fund amounted to \$25.8 million resulting in a deficit of \$2.6 million for the month. During the first seven months of the current fiscal year pension payments have amounted to \$196.3 million and tax receipts credited to the Fund to \$163.7 million."

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FISHERIES CONSERVATION: Canada is now signatory to a pattern of international fisheries agreements more complete probably than any other country in the world, according to the annual report of the federal Department of Fisheries for 1952-53, which was tabled in the House of Commons on December 1. The treaties are designed for the conservation of the fishery resources of the high seas.

The report also shows that negotiations with the United States for a treaty to cover the Great Lakes got under way during the year under review.

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Current estimates place Canada's 1953 apple crop at 11,200,000 bushels, a reduction of about seven per cent from last year's 12,049,000 bushels.

ARMS FOR NATO ALLIES: More than 1,300 tons of ammunition from Royal Canadian Navy stocks was shipped to six European countries under the Mutual Aid Agreement of NATO during the latter part of November.

The SS Table Bay loaded stores at Vancouver on November 30. Her cargo includes 250 tons of cartridges, shells and primers for The Netherlands, 162 tons of four-inch cartridges for Norway, 211 tons of the same for the United Kingdom, 399 tons of 20mm cartridges and hedgehog projectiles (anti-submarine) for France and 11 tons of the projectiles for Portugal.

Additional reserve naval ammunition stores, including 27,000 cartridges of various types, 2,400 fuses and 2,000 practice hedgehog projectiles had previously been shipped to Denmark.

During November a total of 18 ships were scheduled to sail from Canadian ports carrying Canadian arms and equipment to various NATO countries.

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ESKIMOS HONOURED: Twenty Eskimos in the Eastern and Western Arctic are among Canadian citizens to be honoured by the presentation of the Coronation Medal, the Minister of Resources and Development, Mr. Jean Lesage, announced on December 1.

Each Eskimo chosen to receive the honour has provided outstanding leadership in communities that range across the Arctic from Fort Chimo, most easterly settlement, to Aklavik in the Western Arctic, and as far north as Pond Inlet at the northern end of Baffin Island. These Eskimos are also noted hunters.

Three of the Eskimos are Ships' Pilots who provide safe passage for Government vessels entering Pangnirtung, Lake Harbour and Fort Chimo; two are foremen working on the construction of bases at Fort Churchill and Cambridge Bay; one is employed at the School and Nursing Station at Coppermine.

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RECORD FOR MOVIES: In theatres, drive-ins, community and parish centres, and halls serviced by itinerant operators, Canadians last year spent a record \$8.21 per capita for motion picture entertainment, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported. This was 49 cents more than in 1951, \$2.06 more than in 1946, \$3.20 more than in 1942.

The 3,416 theatres of all types collected \$118,434,481 (\$10,227,672 more than in 1951) from 262,963,287 paying customers (10,804,162 more), receipts climbing to \$105,459,183 from \$96,319,583, and amusement taxes to \$12,975,298 from \$11,887,226.

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There were 525,782 trucks and automobiles owned by Canadian farmers in 1951, three times as many as the 157,022 owned by the farmers of 1921.