

R.C.A.F. SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM

LARGEST IN HISTORY: RCAF training centres across Canada are busy preparing for the largest peacetime summer training program in Air Force History, with more than 800 students from universities and colleges in different parts of the country ready to begin special summer courses shortly. Included will be over 50 Air Force cadets from the Canadian Services Colleges.

This influx of university and college trainees will be in addition to normal year-round training for Regular Force members, which is continuing at an ever-increasing tempo. The summer will also see the usual camp periods for Royal Canadian Air Cadets, the resumption of flying training for air cadets under the scholarship plan, and camp periods for the Auxiliary Squadrons.

Largest single group from the universities will be that comprising members of the University Flights, organized last autumn. Three hundred cadets from these flights will spend up to 24 weeks at various RCAF units receiving contact training in various technical trades. A total of 100 are expected to arrive shortly at Trenton, Ont., from Toronto University, McGill University, and the University of Western Ontario. Two-hundred more will report to Abbotsford, B.C., from the Universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

The University Flight cadets will remain at Trenton and Abbotsford for an 8-week introductory course, and will then go to various units, according to their university course and the line of Air Force work in which they are interested. Members of the University Flights, upon successful completion of their University course, and on finishing three consecutive summer training periods, are offered commissions in the Regular, Auxiliary, or Reserve RCAF. They receive the pay of Pilot Officer during their summer training.

Well over 200 veteran RCAF officers, most of them former aircrew, will return to Air Force stations under the Summer Employment Plan, going into its third year. Under this plan, veteran officers having entered university after leaving the RCAF, are taken back during their summer holidays on a reserve

basis, and are engaged in a line of work closely connected with their university course. On graduation from university they are retained as officers in the Regular, Auxiliary or Reserve RCAF. This plan is limited to those officer-veterans taking certain university courses and planning to retain their affiliation with the RCAF, upon graduation. They return as officers for the summer training, usually one rank below that which they held on discharge.

Nearly 120 more University undergraduates will report to Air Force stations to receive summer aircrew training as the University Air Training Plan goes into its third year. The University Air Training Plan itself is concerned only with straight aircrew training of university undergraduates, although aircrew trainees are enrolled in a University Flight, if a Flight exists at the University which they are attending.

A total of 65 UATP cadets will report early in May for pilot training. Of these, 24 will go to Trenton, where they will receive first-year flying instruction. The remainder, who have already had one or two years summer pilot training, will report to Centralia, Ont. Accompanying the first-year trainees will be 30 Air Force cadets from Royal Roads and Royal Military College.

Thirty-six more UATP students will take radio-officer training at Clinton, Ont., together with six Canadian Service Colleges (Royal Roads and Royal Military College) cadets. The Royal Roads and Royal Military College cadets, and six of the UATP trainees, will, for the first time, be taking the radio-officer summer training.

The RCAF's Air Navigation School at Summerside, P.E.I., will receive 16 UATP trainees and 10 cadets from the Canadian Services Colleges, all taking the navigation officer training for the first summer.

The university students taking the summer flying training agree to accept commissions in the Regular, Auxiliary or Reserve RCAF after graduation and after successfully completing three summer training periods. Both UATP undergraduates and CSC cadets receive officer rates of pay during the summer instruction.

Despite the decline from February, the index number of employment, on the base 1926=100, was at a new high for late winter, standing at 189.2 compared with 190.5 at the first of February and 188.9 at March 1 last year.

Accompanying the minor recession in employment generally at March 1 as compared with February 1 was a decrease of 0.2 per cent in the index of weekly payrolls. As compared with March 1 last year, however, there was a rise of 9.5 per cent.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: Industrial employment in Canada at the beginning of March was at a slightly lower level than at February 1, according to data furnished the Bureau of Statistics by 19,938 leading firms in the eight major industrial divisions whose working forces declined 0.7 per cent in the month. The trend has been downward at March 1 in seven of the last 10 years, the latest percentage loss being slightly greater than the average in the decade.

INCREASED WHEAT ACREAGE ON PRAIRIES

FIRST CROP REPORT: With few exceptions the spring season is considerably advanced throughout Canada in comparison with a year ago, states the Bureau of Statistics in the first of its 1949 series of telegraphic crop reports.

Seeding has commenced in the Maritimes and conditions throughout eastern and central Canada are favourable. In the Prairie Provinces moisture is deficient over wide areas, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Seeding is well advanced but rains are needed to promote germination and to allow satisfactory completion. In British Columbia the weather has been warm and seeding is ahead of last year. Moisture is generally ample and fruit crop prospects are excellent.

The growing season in the Maritime Provinces is from 10 days to two weeks in advance of last year. The land is drying rapidly and spring work is getting underway in some areas. Seeding is expected to be general within the next week or two.

Except in northern areas, seeding started around the first of May in most sections of Quebec and has progressed rapidly under favourable conditions. Unusually warm weather has promoted rapid growth of meadows and pastures which came through the winter in generally excellent condition.

Early season indications point to excellent crop prospects in Ontario in 1949. Fall wheat and fall rye wintered well and only moderate damage to hay and clover meadows has been reported. Cool weather during April had a retarding influence on growth of fall-sown

TRADE OFFICE AT MANILA: Opening of a new office of the Trade Commissioner Service in the Philippines, at Manila, was announced on May 13 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe.

F.H. Palmer, formerly Commercial Counsellor at Stockholm, will proceed to Manila this autumn to open this new post, the 45th in a network of Canadian trade offices throughout the world.

Canadian trade with the Philippine Islands has increased from \$1.8 million in 1938 to more than \$16 million last year, \$9.8 million of which comprised Canadian exports. Canada's principal imports from the Philippines include copra, manila fibre, coconut and chrome ore.

Among the main products Canada sells to the Philippines are wheat flour, canned fish, fertilizers, lumber and newsprint, apples and mining machinery.

"Since the end of the war, Canada has been the Philippines second most import source of supply", Mr. Howe stated, "and it is expected that Canadian sales to this dollar market will expand as the new republic develops".

cereals, meadows and pastures but this was more than offset by record high temperatures in May. Development of these crops since the first of May has been rapid and satisfactory yields are anticipated. About half the intended acreage of spring crops had been seeded by April 30 and approximately 75 per cent by May 7.

While official estimates on acreage intentions for the 1949 crops will not be released until May 12, it is evident that significant increases in wheat acreages and sharp declines in sowings of flaxseed and rye will occur in most areas of all three Prairie Provinces. The proportion of intended acreages seeded to date is far in advance of last year when cold, wet weather seriously delayed seeding operations. This year, however, the soil is extremely dry, particularly over wide areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta, with precipitation both prior to and subsequent to April 1 far below normal. Immediate rains are already required in many districts to promote germination and growth.

Although the growing season got away to a slow start in British Columbia this year, it has now advanced to the point where it is considered to be about average. During the past week the weather has been generally warm and the seeding of wheat and coarse grains is considerably ahead of that of a year ago. Moisture supplies appear to be ample in all districts except the Okanagan where irrigation has been started on the lighter soils. Present prospects for fruit crops are excellent.

F.H. Palmer, of Halifax, attended Dalhousie University and received his B.Sc. (Civil Engineering) degree from Nova Scotia Technical College. During World War 1, he served overseas with the Royal Canadian Artillery, and was awarded the M.C. Joining the Trade Commissioner Service in 1921, he has been stationed in New York, Rotterdam, Milan, Oslo, Bristol, Melbourne and Chungking. His present post is Stockholm, where he is Chargé-d'Affaires. A keen sportsman, Mr. Palmer helped to introduce the game of Canadian ice hockey to Norway, and at one time was amateur golf champion of that country.

YUKON OLD AGE PENSIONS: An agreement providing for the first time for the payment of old age and blind pensions in the Yukon Territory has just been signed, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, announced on May 13.

"With the completion of an agreement with the Yukon Territory, the benefits of the federal Old Age Pensions Act now extend to