



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## INDEX TO INSIDE PAGES

Reserves of Gold, Dollar Holdings, Rise . . . . . 2	Value of Inventories . . . . . 6
Rome Conference Delegates . . . . . 3	Labour Income Up . . . . . 7
Reduce Fur Royalties . . . . . 3	Foreign Trade Up 4 P.C. . . . . 7
U.S. -- Canada Wartime Accounts Settlement.. 4	Merchandise Imports . . . . . 7
Marked Improvement in International Accounts 5	Reported in Parliament Briefly . . . . . 8
Mineral Exploration . . . . . 5	Canada At The United Nations . . . . . 9

## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**DEFENCE ESTIMATES INCREASED:** The Defence estimates for next fiscal year represent approximately a 50 per cent increase in both

cash and current commitment authority over the current year as is shown by the following table:

	<u>1948-49</u>	<u>1949-50</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Cash Appropriation	\$251,208,239	375,000,000	123,791,761
Current Year's Commitment Authority	\$ 37,238,578	63,000,000	25,761,422
Future Year's Commitment	<u>\$ 60,938,028</u>	<u>148,315,382</u>	<u>87,377,354</u>
Total Authority	\$349,384,845	\$586,315,382	\$236,930,537

To a much greater degree than other departments it is necessary to plan and provide for defence expenditures, particularly on construction and equipment, beyond the current fiscal year. The commitment authority for future years permits this to be done, the Minister of National Defence stated on March 14.

The provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act prohibit contracts being made in respect of the current year unless there are funds appropriated which have not been committed. To meet possible or probable expenditures on pay, allowances, pensions, rations, food, clothing, etc., it is necessary that a cash appropriation be committed for these purposes larger than may prove to be needed. To provide some latitude, additional commitment authority is therefore sought in respect of the current fiscal year. If in fact expenditures were to

exceed the amount of the cash appropriations sought of \$375,000,000, then they would have to be met out of a supplementary estimate.

In the current fiscal year the cash appropriation was \$251,208,239. While the final figures for the year ending March 31, 1949, will not be known until several weeks after the end of the fiscal year, it is now estimated that cash expenditures may amount to \$260,000,000 which will involve a supplementary appropriation to cover the difference.

In 1947-48, the cash appropriation was \$239,960,611 out of which \$195,561,642 was spent. That year there was a commitment authority for future years of only \$31,838,648.

The increases proposed for the year 1949-50 are in part due to recent increases in pay and allowances and the Government's share of pensions, and also to the increase in the