

CANADIAN FORCES' DECORATION TO 148: The award of the Canadian Forces' Decoration to 148 R.C.A.F. officers and other ranks was announced on October 16 by Air Force Headquarters. Both serving and retired personnel are included in the awards. The decoration was approved this summer and this is its first award to Air Force personnel.

The Canadian Forces' Decoration is awarded for 12 years' service in either the Permanent or Reserve Forces, and is the first purely Canadian decoration for service of this nature. It is common to all the Armed Forces and supersedes various long service and good conduct awards peculiar to individual services, and which had no distinct Canadian connection.

The actual decoration is a 10-sided silver-gilt device, bearing on its front the effigy of the King, encircled by the Royal title. The reverse bears a Naval Crown, Maple Leaves and an Eagle, representing the three Services. The ribbon is red, equally divided by three narrow vertical white stripes. The decoration may be awarded only to personnel with service after January 1, 1946.

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FARM PRICES LOWER: Farm prices of agricultural products in August for all Canada declined nearly four per cent from the July level, and were also down slightly from August last year, according to index numbers compiled by the Bureau of Statistics. The August index, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 251.6 as compared with 262.0 for July, the highest this year, and 252.8 for August, 1949.

The decline in the index from July was attributable in large part to the lowering of the initial price of western wheat at August 1 this year from \$1.75 to \$1.40 per bushel basis No. 1 Northern, in Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver. This decline in wheat prices, together with a slight decline in potato prices, more than offset advancing prices for livestock, poultry and eggs.

Reflecting the lower initial price for wheat, index numbers for the three Prairie Provinces showed declines from July. Indexes for the remaining provinces were higher. Compared with August last year, indexes were higher for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, and lower for each of the Maritime and Prairie Provinces.

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FIRST WAR LOAN BONDS: First War Loan bonds bearing call letter D increased in maturity value by \$250,000. The appreciation took place automatically when the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, drew the letter D out of a hat in accordance with the original terms of the \$250 million bond issue. The result of the drawing means that persons holding First War Loan Bonds bearing call Letter D will receive 100% on the date of redemption, February 1, 1951.

GOVERNMENT REVENUES, EXPENDITURES: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, on October 14, released a statement compiled by the Comptroller of the Treasury covering revenues and expenditures of the Government of Canada for the month of September.

The Comptroller's statement shows total revenues of the Government for the month of September amounted to \$214.5 million compared with \$174.0 million for September 1949. Total revenues for the first six months of the fiscal year amounted to \$1,281.4 million compared with \$1,240.6 million for the same period a year ago.

The Comptroller's statement shows total expenditures for September of \$211.0 million compared with \$189.7 million for September 1949. Total expenditures for the first six months of the fiscal year amounted to \$985.3 million compared with \$961.7 million for the same period of 1949.

SEPTEMBER REVENUES

Revenues for September exceeded expenditures by \$3.5 million, bringing the accumulated surplus at September 30 to \$296.1 million. The surplus for the six months ended September 30, 1949, amounted to \$278.9 million.

Mr. Abbott stated that "the surplus for the first half of the fiscal year should not be taken as indicative of what the final results would be for the year. The expanded defence programme announced at the special session of Parliament has not as yet been reflected to any considerable extent in the expenditures of the Government. In addition, there are always a number of expenditures at the fiscal year-end which tend to reduce substantially the budgetary surplus accumulated in the early months of the fiscal year.

In addition to budgetary expenditures, there were non-budgetary disbursements, that is, outlays for loans, advances and investments, amounting to \$42.5 million in the period April 1 to September 30, 1950, compared with \$110.7 million in the comparable period of 1949.

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RADIOTELEPHONY FOR AIRCRAFT: The Far East and Pacific Office of the International Civil Aviation Organization has announced that an informal meeting began on October 10 in Sydney, Australia between government and airline representatives to discuss the introduction of long-range radiotelephony facilities for en route airground communications across the South Pacific.

The meeting is being attended by representatives of Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and the United States and of airlines operating in the South Pacific Region.

Up till now radiotelephony has been used only in that Region for short-range communications with aerodrome control towers or over areas where receiving stations have been