

NAVY'S EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME

TWELVE OPERATIONAL UNITS: In the most extensive training programme in its peacetime history, providing sea experience for a Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) which now numbers more than 3,000, and making it possible for permanent service men to obtain advancement in their specialized branches, the R.C.N. will maintain twelve operational units during the forthcoming spring and summer, announces the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton. The primary duty of nine of these, including that of the cruiser "Ontario", will be the all-essential training programme. To make it possible two ships the frigate "Swansea" and the Algerine escort vessel "Portage", will be recommissioned.

Several of the ships concerned are already at sea for spring exercises, some of them being scheduled to join forces for a period with the Royal Navy's America and West Indies squadron for fleet exercises. A West Coast group, consisting of the cruiser "Ontario", the destroyer "Crescent" and the frigate "Antigonish" is moving down the Pacific coast, the first two having a rendezvous in the Caribbean in March with other Canadian and British ships. They will return to Esquimalt early in May to begin immediately extensive training cruises for Reserves and R.C.N. new entries. A class of R.C.N. cadets, at present with the squadron, will return to Esquimalt in "Antigonish" on March 3rd. The frigate, already a veteran of two years of training cruises, will continue that programme after reaching her home port.

NEW TRIBAL DESTROYER

The brand new Tribal class destroyer "Cayuga", her crew already heavily augmented by Reserves, sailed from Halifax, where she was built, on February 4th. Reaching her new home port of Esquimalt in mid-March, she will "shake down" in preparation for training duties beginning a month later.

Largest and newest of all the Canadian warships, the aircraft carrier "Magnificent" will concentrate all summer on perfecting her intricate and highly specialized organization. Commissioning in Belfast, Ireland, sometime in April, she is expected to reach Halifax towards the end of May. A leave period and the establishment of her shore organization will bring her to mid-July, when she will put to sea for deck landing training of the two squadrons making up the 19th Carrier Air Group. The two other naval craft in commission but not participating in the summer's general training programme will be the frigate "St. Stephen" engaged on the Atlantic Weather Patrol, and the Algerine escort vessel "New Liskeard", which will be assigned to special duties after participating in the spring exercises.

Commissioned only last month after her completion in Halifax, the final addition to

the Canadian-built Tribal destroyers, "Athabaskan", is due to follow "Cayuga" around to Esquimalt in the spring and will be engaged in regular reserve training cruises by summer. "Nootka", second of the Canadian Tribals, will sail south from Halifax to participate in the Caribbean fleet exercises and will return in time to commence Reserve training cruises by May 1. "Haida", also of the same class, and a famous fighting ship of the past war, will engage in a shakedown voyage early in April before assuming R.C.N. and R.C.N. (R) training duties on the 16th of that month.

A frigate with an outstanding record in anti-submarine warfare, the "Swansea", will come back into circulation in Halifax for the first time since being paid off in November 1945. She will be recommissioned specifically for training and will assume those duties on April 1. The Algerine "Portage", already an old hand in the business, will commence cruises with Reserves at the same time, following the track pioneered by her sister ship, "Wallaceburg" two years ago into the Great Lakes.

FAR NORTH HOUSEBUILDING

PILES IN THE PERMAFROST: Of interest to adventurous souls who plan to settle in the great undeveloped northland is a handy hint on house-building to be found in an article on northern building in the latest issue of the Canadian Army Journal. It seems that homes built on stilts will soon be all the rage.

It's a question of permafrost, the layer of year-round frozen ground just below the surface. The old method was to scrape away the top covering until a firm base was reached, and then start to build. But the catch here is that the firm base -- frozen soil -- becomes a sea of mud when heat from the building gets through the floor. Snake-like buildings at Whitehorse and other northern towns show up this difficulty all too clearly.

So "floating" houses were tried, which means putting up the building without disturbing the natural covering of the ground, and in some cases adding extra insulation to the floor. This works fairly well but is not suited to heavy buildings which need a real foundation.

According to the Army, here's the way to do it: Sink piles right down into the non-active layer of permafrost -- that layer which never melts -- and roughen them to prevent slipping. The upper part of the pile should be wrapped with greased or tar paper to allow the active layer of permafrost to slide up and down as it thaws or freezes. Leave an air insulation space between the floor and the ground and you're all set to build your northern dreamhouse.

Permafrost covers about 20 per cent of the earth's land mass and is found where exterior cold overcomes the earth's interior heat. That means where the annual average temperature is below freezing point.

DENTAL SERVICE FOR ISOLATED CIVILIANS:

Civilians in the far north and other isolated parts of Canada where ordinary civilian dental service is not available, may now receive treatment from available dental officers of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps at a set scale of fees.

There are three restrictions:

- (a) in an emergency, that is for the relief of pain or for the repair of broken dentures where civilian dental facilities are not available;
- (b) in isolated areas where no civilian dental facilities exist, or
- (c) at the request of an approved civilian dental authority where it is considered necessary to supplement civilian services.

N.W.T. SIGN FITNESS AGREEMENT: The Northwest Territories and the federal government have completed an agreement under the National Physical Fitness Act for the promotion of fitness and recreation in the settlements "north of sixty".

Recently New Brunswick entered into an agreement under the Act, bringing to seven the number of provinces promoting fitness and recreational programmes with federal financial aid.

Under the agreement, signed on behalf of the Northwest Territories Council by the commissioner, H.L. Keenleyside, the Territories agree to co-operate with the National Council on Physical Fitness by developing and promoting fitness and recreational programmes among the residents of the Territories. The Agreement is effective for five years.

C.O., R.C.A.F. STATION, WINNIPEG: Air Force Headquarters announce appointment of W/C J.P. McCarthy, DFC, Toronto, as Commanding Officer of R.C.A.F. Station, Winnipeg. For the last year W/C McCarthy has been Chief Instructor of the Junior Officer's School of Administration, Toronto.

W/C McCarthy joined the RCAF in July, 1940, went overseas in 1941, and completed a tour of operations as a bomber pilot attached to the RAF. For gallantry in operations against the enemy he was awarded the DFC in 1942. In 1943 he served as flight commander with 420 (RCAF) Bomber Squadron, after which he assumed command of 424 (RCAF) Squadron in North Africa. Upon completion of his second tour of operations he returned to England as Senior Operation Controller for 6 (Bomber) Group Headquarters. W/C McCarthy attended the RAF Staff College and upon graduation returned to Canada to become a member of the Directing Staff of the RCAF Staff College, in Toronto.

(C.W.B. March 5, 1948)

IMPORTS REQUIRING PERMIT

ITEMS UNDER CONTROL: The Minister of Finance, acting on the advice of the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, announces that individual import permits are now required for the importation of the goods, equipment and materials listed below, unless they were shipped and were in continuous and uninterrupted transit to Canada on or before February 29, 1948:--

Tariff item No. 393 -- Tires, of steel, in the rough, not drilled or machined in any manner, for railway vehicles, including locomotives and tenders.

Tariff item No. 427e -- automatic machines for making and packaging cigars and cigarettes, not to include tobacco-preparing machines.

Tariff item No. 434 -- locomotives for use on railways, and chassis, tops, wheels and bodies for the same, n.o.p.

Tariff item No. 434b -- steel wheels for use on railway rolling stock, viz; (1) pressed steel, (11) n.o.p.

Tariff item No. ex 446 -- electric steam turbo generator sets, 700 h.p. and greater, of a class or kind not made in Canada; complete parts thereof for production use.

Tariff item No. 461 -- safes, including doors; doors and door frames for vaults; scales, balances, weighing beams and strength-testing machines of all kinds, n.o.p.

Application forms, known as Form CG 101, for import permits may be obtained from Collectors of Customs in the larger centres in Canada. Forms may also be obtained from the Capital Goods Import Control Branch, Department of Reconstruction and Supply, Ottawa, with which Branch all completed applications should be filed.

The bringing of these items under control represents a further step in the programme to conserve foreign exchange and will be followed by similar announcements from time to time.

STEEL CONTROLLER APPOINTED: W.E. Uren has relinquished his duties as Steel Controller and Priorities Officer in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply. Mr. Uren will retain his duties as Chairman of the Dominion Coal Board, and as Co-ordinator of Controls. F.K. Ashbaugh has taken over the position of Steel Controller, while C.F. Magurn has been appointed Priorities Officer.

Born in Windsor, Ont., F.K. Ashbaugh is president of the Lake Erie Tobacco Co. Ltd., Tillsonburg, Ont. During the war, he served in Ottawa as a member of the Secretariat of the Wartime Industries Control Board, and in 1944 transferred to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, where he held the position of Co-ordinator of Capital Equipment and Durable Goods, resigning in 1946 to return to his company.

Formerly deputy Priorities Officer in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, C.F.