

pension index for the current year to the pension index for the previous year."

OLD AGE PENSIONS

As a result of the pension index increase of 2 per cent for 1968, old age security pensions will increase from \$75 to \$76.50 a month next January. Some 1,360,000 pensioners will benefit from the increase in this pension in January, when the eligible age for pension is reduced to 67 years. Approximately 800,000 old age security pensioners will benefit from increases in the guaranteed income supplement. The maximum supplement payable will rise from \$30 to \$30.60 a month in January. For those receiving the maximum supplement their combined benefit will be \$107.10 compared to \$105 a month at present.

PENSIONABLE EARNINGS

Mr. MacEachen said that the maximum pensionable earnings would increase from the present maximum of \$5,000 to a new maximum of \$5,100. From January 1968, contributions will be made on earnings between \$600 and \$5,100, instead of on earnings between \$600 and \$5,000 at present.

The increase in the maximum pensionable earnings will mean that maximum yearly contributions by employers and employees will be \$81 instead of \$79.20, and maximum yearly contributions by self-employed persons will become \$162 instead of \$158.40.

RETIREMENT PENSIONS

All Canada Pension Plan retirement pensions will be increased in January. Those which become payable for the first time in 1968 will be slightly higher than they would otherwise have been because of the increase in the earnings ceiling. On the basis of the new ceiling, maximum full retirement pensions, first payable in 1976, will be increased from \$104.17 to \$106.25.

The flat-rate orphans' benefit and the flat-rate portion of the widows' and disabled widowers' pensions will be \$25.50 a month rather than the \$25 that would otherwise have been payable. In addition, the earnings-related portions of widows' and disabled widowers' pensions will also be affected by the increase in the earnings ceiling.

NEW BIBLE FOR FORCES

The Canadian Bible Society, which for years has made pocket-sized editions of the King James version of the *New Testament* available to servicemen, has prepared a new edition of the *New Testament and Psalms*.

The new edition has been published with larger type than that used in earlier editions. Each is bound in a dark blue cover bearing the Canadian coat-of-arms, and the wording *New Testament and Psalms*, and *Canadian Armed Forces* in gold lettering. The first 60 copies were presented to the graduating class of the Royal Military College, Kingston, during the summer and copies will be available to members of the Forces on enrolment.

DEVELOPMENT LOAN TO PAKISTAN

Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and His Excellency Mirza Sikander Ali Baig, Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada, recently signed agreements to provide two development loans worth \$11 million to Pakistan.

One loan, for \$5 million, will be used to purchase \$4-million worth of fertilizer and \$1-million worth of sulphur, while the second, for \$6 million, will provide copper (\$2,900,000), aluminum (\$1,600,000), asbestos (\$600,000), wood pulp (\$700,000), and sulphur (\$200,000).

EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE

The loan for fertilizer, which is the first large agricultural allocation to Pakistan by the External Aid Office, complies with the increased emphasis placed by Canada's 1967-68 aid programme on agricultural production.

The commodities will be used to help Pakistan's industries operate at high capacity and will also save the country's foreign-exchange funds.

Pakistan will buy direct all the items from Canadian suppliers.

MUSEUM WORK WITH JAMAICA

A programme of cultural co-operation between the National Museum of Canada and the Institute of Jamaica began this summer when Canadian museum personnel visited Jamaica for a month to train personnel of the Institute of Jamaica and collect specimens for both national museums.

Dr. A.W.F. Banfield, Director of the Natural History Branch of the National Museum, said that a "successful start" had been made. There would be an attempt, he said, by the National Museum to strengthen its ties with the Commonwealth countries of the West Indies.

During the visit, a Canadian taxidermist trained two Jamaican technicians in his art and collected more than 100 bird specimens which will be mounted and divided between the two museums.

With the assistance and guidance of staff from the Institute of Jamaica, another Canadian expert collected 850 Jamaican reptiles and amphibians, a detailed report on their identification of which will be prepared by the curator. Part of the collection will be returned to the Institute for its reference collection, and the rest will be kept at the National Museum in Ottawa.

INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

The project, which resulted from a discussion between Dr. Banfield and C. Bernard Lewis, Director of the Institute of Jamaica and a subsequent request from the Jamaican Government, indicated a widening of the Museum's interest in international research.

A number of Jamaican scientists, including an archaeologist, entomologist and a botanist took part in expeditions. Field trips were made into the forests surrounding the Institute's biological station in the Blue Mountains.