

Dr. Solandt confirmed press reports that routine development tests of the guided missile being developed by DRB for the RCAF were under way during the summer. He explained that the project progresses in stages with trials following the completion of each stage. He added that as the missile then under test was not finished, continuing firings could be expected.

DRB provided financial assistance in an interesting project being carried out at Royal Military College, Kingston - the development of a submersible exploration craft or diving bell with likely useful possibilities for undersea repair work, as an aid in finding equipment lost overboard from ships and as a "water-taxi" for divers.

Besides the activities carried out in DRB establishments, as in past years, the Board provided approximately \$1,000,000 during 1953 to 21 universities and colleges for grants in aid of fundamental research and contracts. This assistance was extended to pure and applied science faculties and the medical faculties of educational centres representative of every Canadian province.

Besides furthering specific DRB research, the grants aim at the training of Canadian scientists in many fields and particularly those in which experienced specialists are in short supply.

The exchange of information and liaison with the U.K. and the U.S.A. continued as in previous years, not only through conferences in Canada and elsewhere but also through DRB representatives in Ottawa, London and Washington who maintain close liaison with their opposite numbers in the other countries.

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COLOMBO PLAN: The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, on December 15, tabled in the House of Commons the Progress Report on the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia, prepared by the Consultative Committee at its Fifth Meeting which was held in New Delhi, India, in October.

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. James Sinclair, headed the Canadian Delegation to the New Delhi meeting. On the invitation of the Canadian Government, extended by Mr. Sinclair, the Committee decided to hold its next meeting in Ottawa. This meeting will take place probably in the autumn of 1954.

The Report reviews the substantial achievements that have been made in the co-operative effort to implement the economic development programmes of the countries in the Area, as well as the difficulties that have been encountered. It indicated a continuing need for the provision of external assistance to supplement the efforts which the South Asian countries are themselves making to better the lot of their peoples.

NOVEMBER "SURPLUS": Budgetary revenues for November amounted to \$338.5 million, an increase of \$16.4 million over November, 1952, while budgetary expenditures totalled \$329.5 million or \$11.3 million more than those for November, 1952. For November, 1953, the budgetary surplus was \$9 million compared with \$65.9 million for October, 1953, and \$3.9 million for November last year, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on December 19.

For the period April 1 to November 30, 1953, budgetary revenues amounted to \$2,789.5 million or \$102.7 million more than for the corresponding period of 1952. Budgetary expenditures for this period in 1953 totalled \$2,514.4 million, an increase of \$119.5 million, over the total for the same period in 1952. For the eight-month period to November 30, 1953, the surplus was \$275.1 million or \$16.8 million less than that for the same period a year ago.

Pension payments out of the Old Age Security Fund (which are not included in budgetary expenditures) totalled \$28.4 million for November, 1953 and tax receipts credited to the Fund amounted to \$23.5 million resulting in a deficit of \$4.9 million for the month.

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REVOCATION OF CONTROLS: The Minister of Defence Production announced on December 16 the revocation, effective December 31, 1953, of the following orders, Primary and Wrought Aluminum - NFM-2; Copper Rod, Wire and Cable - NFM-3; Wrought Copper and Alloys - NFM-4; Primary Copper - NFM-5; and Primary Nickel - NFM-10. The effect of the announcement was to complete the revocation of formal orders relating to controls over essential materials.

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RECORD AUTO ENTRIES: Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits in November reached a new high record total for the month of 99,192, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The gain over last year's November total was 13 per cent. Cumulative entries for this year's January-November period rose 10 per cent from 2,214,481 last year to 2,428,726. All provinces shared in the increase both in the month and 11-month period.

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NEW NAVAL BADGE: A badge, designed at Naval Headquarters, will soon be available for wear by ex-members of the naval forces of Canada.

To be known as the Former Naval Personnel Badge, it may be worn by all former naval officers, men and women who have been honourably released from the service. The badge is to be reproduced only in metal, suitable for wear in the left lapel button hole, or embroidered for wear on the left breast pocket of blazers and jackets.