

FOOD FOR INDIA

Prime Minister Pearson has announced that the Government will ask Parliament to provide, in the current fiscal year, a supplementary vote of \$22.5 million for food-aid to India.

When India suffered from a severe crop failure in 1965-66, the Government of India had to import about 10 million tons of food grains to avert famine, and depleted its stocks below working levels. The situation is serious again this year. Shortages will be particularly acute for about 25 per cent of India's population in a few states where the monsoon rains failed. "In the light of this critical food situation in India, which would result in widespread starvation, Canada must do at least as much this year as we did last," the Prime Minister said.

The Indian Government, by its own efforts, has taken steps in recent months to overcome the difficult economic problems it faces. Top priority has been given to agricultural production - new and better strains of seeds are being developed and the manufacture of fertilizers is being emphasized. Canada will continue to assist India by providing such fertilizer and fertilizer components, pesticides, irrigation facilities, etc., and by lending Canadian experts to India (for example, in food technology).

URGENT NEED

The need of India for imported food is immediate and urgent, Mr. Pearson said. After examining the Canadian supply and transportation situation, officials have advised the Government, on the basis of the evidence, that up to \$21-million worth of the required food-stuffs - mainly wheat and some flour - could be moved in the next few months.

In the fiscal year 1967-68, Parliament will be asked to vote \$75 million for food-aid. This will permit Canada to maintain the food-aid programme for India at the exceptionally high level of the current year and also to make an appropriate response to Pakistan's requests for Canadian assistance.

CANADA COUNCIL AWARDS

Four Canadians have been awarded the Canada Council Medal, one of the nation's highest tokens of recognition in the arts, humanities and social sciences. The recipients are novelist Morley Callaghan, W.A. Mackintosh, economist and former vice-chancellor of Queen's University, film-maker Norman McLaren and painter Jean-Paul Riopelle, who received their awards and a cash prize of \$2,500 each from Canada Council vice-chairman J.F. Leddy at a special dinner given in their honour recently in Ottawa.

The Canada Council Medal is not awarded for any specific work, but is granted as a salute to a career of extraordinary merit and service to Canada.

The citations accompanying the awards were delivered by Canada Council director Jean Boucher and associate director Peter M. Dwyer.

THE NOVELIST

Of Morley Callaghan, Mr. Boucher said that his novels and stories create "a peculiar sense of

involvement in the reader". He added that Morley Callaghan has been called "both philosopher and theologian, and yet while you are reading his work you see only that part of life which is as simple and direct as the talk around the kitchen table, made beautiful in his short stories as Vermeer made it beautiful in his painting".

THE SCHOLAR

W.A. Mackintosh was honoured for his outstanding achievements as a scholar, a government official and policy-maker, and a university administrator. Singled out by Mr. Boucher from among Dr. Mackintosh's several scholarly works as *The Economic Background of Dominion-Provincial Relations*, a study written for a Royal Commission in 1938. Commentators have called it "one of the few successful efforts of a scholar to write the history of his own time".

THE FILM-MAKER

Of the Scottish-born film-maker, Norman McLaren, Mr. Dwyer said, "he has produced works of art which have excited the senses and troubled the conscience of the world". After referring to McLaren's sensitive and significant use of colour and form and to his technical innovations, Mr. Dwyer said in conclusion: "So it is with some sense of being a little dazzled and most deeply moved that we offer tonight to our best film-maker the best we have to give".

THE PAINTER

Mr. Dwyer called painter Jean-Paul Riopelle "one of the uncontested masters of contemporary painting". After talking of Riopelle's world-wide stature and success, Mr. Dwyer added that the Montreal-born, Paris-based artist "will permit us to recognize the shifting and luminous colours of the new world, reflected in his work as in the prism of sky and water".

MUSEUM FOR CENTENNIAL

A part of Montreal's historic Le Vieux Quartier once under the threat of the wrecker's hammer, will be preserved as an industrial centennial project.

Canadian Industries Limited has announced that it will redecorate a building on Place Jacques Cartier, which was originally built in 1723 and later rebuilt in 1804, after a fire, as the home of a wealthy widow.

The company plans to use the building to exhibit its collection of early Canadian firearms and ammunition.

To conform to the general plan of the Jacques Viger commission, the restoration may include a *boutique*. Upper floors will be redesigned and used as apartments and offices.

HISTORICAL SITE

The location of the old two-and-a-half-storey building once formed part of the garden of a palatial chateau started in 1723 by Philippe de Rigaud, Marquis de Vaudreuil, governor of Montreal and later governor of New France.