

GOVERNMENT FINANCES

Mr. Donald M. Fleming, Minister of Finance, has released the regular monthly statement of the Government's financial operations for October 1958 and the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

For October, budgetary revenues were \$422.7 million, expenditures were \$444 million and there was a deficit of \$21.3 million. For October 1957 revenues were \$432.9 million, expenditures were \$407.2 million and there was a surplus of \$25.7 million.

For the first seven months of the current fiscal year, budgetary revenues were \$2,579.5 million, expenditures were \$2,683.2 million and there was a deficit of \$103.7 million. For the same seven-month period a year ago, revenues were \$2,909 million, expenditures (which included \$100 million to the Canada Council) were \$2,651.8 million and there was a surplus of \$257.2 million.

Mr. Fleming pointed out that while budgetary expenditures of the Department of National Defence were \$115.5 million for October 1958 and \$720.3 million for the seven months to October 31, 1958, \$26.5 million was also disbursed during the month of October and \$138.8 million during the seven-month period from the special defence accounts, reflecting the decision to liquidate the national defence equipment account during the course of the current fiscal year.

Operations of the old age security fund, which are not included in budgetary transactions, resulted in a deficit of \$14.6 million for the month of October 1958 and an accumulated deficit of \$108.2 million for the seven months to October 31, 1958. Last year for the seven months to October 31, 1957 there was an accumulated deficit of \$30.1 million. These deficits were covered by temporary loans by the Minister under the terms of the Old Age Security Act.

* * * *

MORE MOTOR VEHICLES

A record 4,459,595 motor vehicles were registered in Canada at the end of the 1957 registration-year, an increase of 5.5 per cent from 1956's previous high of 4,226,474, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual motor vehicle report. Passenger car registrations were up 6.2 per cent to 3,383,419 from 3,187,065 a year earlier and commercial vehicle registrations 3.7 per cent to 1,041,266 from 1,003,829, but motorcycle registrations, including motorized bicycles, dropped 1.9 per cent to 34,910 from 35,580. Data on revenues from motor vehicle registrations, operators and gasoline taxes, sales of gasoline and diesel fuel oil, and on unsatisfied judgment funds are also contained in this report.

At the end of 1945 there were 1,497,081 motor vehicles licensed in Canada, consisting

of 1,160,058 passenger cars, 322,829 commercial vehicles and 14,194 motor cycles. Since then, registrations of all motor vehicles have increased 197.9 per cent, passenger cars by 191.7 per cent, commercial vehicles by 222.5 per cent, and motorcycles by 145.9 per cent.

There were 10 motor vehicles registered for every 37 Canadians at the end of the 1957 registration-year. Saskatchewan and Alberta had the largest number of motor vehicles in relation to population with 10 for every 29 persons, while Ontario continues to lead in passenger cars at 10 per 39 persons. All regions showed increases over the previous year in the number of vehicles per capita except Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia where no change was reported.

Gains in total registrations occurred in all regions, ranging from a low of 2 per cent in Prince Edward Island to a high of 12.9 per cent in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Other increases were: British Columbia, 8.2 per cent; Quebec, 6.8 per cent; Alberta, 6.3 per cent; New Brunswick, 4.9 per cent; Ontario, 4.8 per cent; Manitoba, 4.5 per cent; Newfoundland, 4.1 per cent; and Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, 3.1 per cent each.

* * * *

SCHOOLS FOR THE ARCTIC

Bells will soon be ringing at two new schools in the High Arctic. Two young teachers from the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources will fly north next week to take up Arctic postings. It will be their first trip above the tree-line.

One goes to Resolute Bay on Cornwallis Island, some 750 miles south of the North Pole, and the most northerly point for a Canadian school. Resolute is an important Arctic centre. In summer, it is a port of call for the Eastern Arctic patrol, and a supply point for Arctic Weather Stations for the north and west. A knowledge of English and some vocational training are valuable to Eskimos who work with the supply ships and at other activities there.

The second teacher, a young woman, will go to Spence Bay on Boothia Island, which lies midway between the Eastern and Western Arctic. Not so far north as Resolute, Christmas celebrations there will be lit by neon, electric or storm lantern light - probably a combination of all three.

Neither of these communities has had a school before. At Resolute, a young Eskimo girl has been teaching the children with the help of material sent in by Northern Affairs teachers. For several years, part-time classes have been carried on in an Anglican mission at Spence Bay.

Both these teachers will combine school subjects for the children with separate classes in adult education.

* * * *