

heavy mittens and boots that he cannot easily operate instruments and knobs, nor depress the clutch of his vehicle without also applying the brake. If he touches any metal with his bare hands his skin tears away when he tries to let go. Medicines freeze and burst their bottles. Radio waves are freakish and the frozen ground lacks conducting properties for the efficient grounding of radio, telephone and telegraph equipment.

"INVASION" OF ALASKA: Whitehorse, Y.T., Jan. 27
Rushed into the Yukon interior by motor convoys and Air Force troop carriers, Canadian and American troops with their equipment and supplies are being concentrated here to repel a theoretical airborne invasion of Alaska by an "enemy" Aggressor.

The Allied Force of Exercise "Sweetbriar" is assembling here for a counter-attack to be launched February 13. It will strike at Aggressor troops approaching the Alaska Highway and will be climaxed by a mass jump on February 23 by Canadian paratroopers at Northway, air field in eastern Alaska. This will be the first peacetime air assault ever undertaken under mid-winter conditions in the sub-Arctic.

Approximately 4,700 Canadian and United States ground and air force personnel and 500 Aggressor troops, provided by the U.S. Alaskan Command, 5,200 in all, are taking part in Exercise "Sweetbriar", first troop-training manoeuvre of its kind ever jointly conducted by the Armed Forces of the two countries.

It follows up a series of controlled winter-training exercises conducted individually by Canada and the United States in the Far North since the Second World War. Battalion combat teams of both countries will be involved, with both tactical and carrier air support.

"COMBAT SITUATION"

The "combat situation" of the exercise to date is this: Aggressor has deprived the Allied forces of the use of strategic bases in the Fairbanks-Anchorage area of Alaska and threatens territorial conquest of Canada and the United States.

Commanders directing the manoeuvre state that the general objectives of Exercise "Sweetbriar" are to develop doctrine, procedures, and technique for the employment of combined Canadian and United States armies and air forces operating in the Arctic. Service testing, under Arctic conditions in the field, of the latest developments in clothing, emergency food rations, vehicles, weapons, and other equipment and material, is also a major purpose of the exercise.

It is anticipated that from "Sweetbriar" may come new concepts in basic doctrine of both nations with regard to combined and joint operations in the sub-Arctic, and much additional data for current United States and Canadian military field manuals on Arctic operations.

Sub-zero temperatures, often ranging as low as 40 to 60 degrees below, are customary at this time of the year in the manoeuvre area. It is an area, however, in which calm conditions, with little wind and a deceptive, dry cold, prevail during the period January-February.

MR. MITCHELL'S LABOUR STATEMENT: The following is the partial text of the statement on labour conditions broadcast from Ottawa this week, by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell:

"... In view of the buoyancy and strength of domestic demand, the size and ever-increasing diversity of our industrial output, and the often expressed determination of our own, and other leading nations, to cooperate in restoring a balance in international trade, I am confident that our economy will continue to be maintained during the coming months at a high level of production and employment.

"In December last, the labour force of Canada was estimated to be 5,200,000 persons. This figure is the highest for the month of December in the history of Canada.

"Of this 5,200,000 there were 261,000 unemployed applicants registered in the National Employment Offices across Canada.

"Seventy-one, decimal one per cent of the total were either in receipt of unemployment insurance benefits or were persons whose claims were being processed.

"Not all actually were out of work. Quite a number had jobs but wanted to change--while there were others who had found jobs but had not informed their local offices.

"The increase in workers looking for jobs is due mainly to seasonal fluctuations of production in many Canadian industries.

"There is, for example, the falling off in employment in woods operations in Eastern Canada, where it is estimated that 35,000 fewer men are employed this season than last. This situation is largely due to a decline in the planned carry-over in pulp wood. The number in British Columbia is also down for the same reason...

"This adverse and abnormal weather in the West has interfered with construction work, and no improvement can be looked for until there is a climatic change for the better.

"In addition to the usual seasonal influences, and the special circumstances I have just mentioned, a considerable portion of current unemployment results from the continuing growth of the Canadian labour force.

"During the past year, the growth of the total labour force has amounted to 120,000, while the number actually at work has increased by close to 100,000.

"Reports reaching me indicate that plans are being completed for many projects consisting of industrial buildings, road construction, and municipal improvements which will be proceeded with in the early spring..."