

### MAJOR HYDRO-ELECTRIC EXPANSION

Canada recorded her greatest annual increase in hydro-electric generating capacity in 1958, Mr. Alvin Hamilton, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, has reported in his annual statement on Hydro-Electric Progress in Canada. The year's net total reached the commanding figure of nearly two and a half million horse-power, more than half a million horsepower greater than the previous record year in 1954, and nearly one million horse-power above last year's total. Installations under construction forecast the addition of about two million horse-power in 1959 and upwards of two and a half million in succeeding years. The total installed capacity is now 22,376,048 h.p., which is about a quarter of the feasible turbine installation based on Canada's estimated water-power resources.

The St. Lawrence River power development produced the largest installation at a single development and gave Ontario the biggest annual increase among the provinces. The bringing into operation of the first nine units of the Robert H. Saunders-St. Lawrence Generating Station at Barnhart Island added 675,000 h.p. to the Canadian total, and it was followed closely by Quebec's contribution of 450,000 h.p. by the completion of the final three units of the Bersimis 1 development of the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission.

There was increased activity in the building of new thermal-electric plants and extensions to existing plants in nine of the ten provinces and in Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. Work was resumed at Ontario's 20,000-kw, nuclear-electric generating station near Des Joachims on the Ottawa River, after a halt had been called to make changes in the design of the reactor.

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### GOVERNMENT FINANCES

Mr. Donald M. Fleming, Minister of Finance, has released the regular monthly statement of the Government's financial operations for December 1, 1958 and the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

For December, budgetary revenues were \$506.5 million, expenditures were \$453.4 million and there was a surplus of \$53.1 million. For December 1957, revenues were \$451 million, expenditures were \$422.4 million and there was a surplus of \$28.6 million.

For the first nine months of the current fiscal year, budgetary revenues were \$3,452.5 million, expenditures were \$3,573.4 million and there was a deficit of \$120.9 million. For the same nine-month period a year ago, revenues were \$3,755.8 million, expenditures (which included \$100 million to the Canada

Council) were \$3,468.1 million and there was a surplus of \$287.7 million.

Mr. Fleming pointed out that while budgetary expenditures of the Department of National Defence for the nine months to December 31, 1958, were \$950.1 million compared with \$1,172.3 million for the same nine-month period last year, \$174.3 million was also disbursed during the nine months to December 31, 1958 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 \$19.2 million for December 1958, and an accumulated deficit of \$147.2 million for the nine months to December 31, 1958. Last year for the nine months to December 31, 1957 there was an accumulated deficit of \$65.4 million. These deficits were covered by temporary loans by the Minister under the terms of the Old Age Security Act.

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### METEOROLOGY DEPARTMENT AT MCGILL

Canada's first Department of Meteorology will be established at McGill University, Dr. F. Cyril James, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, announced recently. Candidates will be prepared for an honours B.Sc. degree and for M.-Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. Meteorological study is not new at McGill. The establishment of a separate department, however, will enable the university to train senior undergraduates and to strengthen and extend its research activities.

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### WAR ACE RELICS AT MUSEUM

The exploits of Canada's heroic Great War pilots are recalled in a new exhibit at the Canadian War Museum. Relics of three famed pilots, each a winner of the Victoria Cross, are being displayed this year to coincide with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of powered flight in Canada.

Air Marshal W.A. Bishop, V.C., D.S.O. and Bar, M.C., D.F.C. and numerous other Allied decorations, and Lieut.-Col. W.G. Barker, V.C., D.S.O. and Bar, M.C. and two Bars, were the best-known of the intrepid fliers who fired the imagination of Canadians with their daring victories in the air over France, and led Canada into the age of aviation. Souvenirs of their fighting days and of Lieut. A.A. MacLeod, who was awarded the V.C. at the age of 18 for his outstanding bravery in an action in which his bomber was attacked and shot down by the German ace, Hans Kirschstein, form the new exhibit.