

normal cost of operations due to improved rations, clothing and accommodation. A large part of the increase will be required to meet liabilities on commitments for construction and equipment made during the current fiscal year and authorized under the commitment authority given by Parliament in 1948.

There will also be increases due to the successful current recruiting campaign which is resulting in a greater number of men in the three Services. The last five months have shown an 80 per cent improvement over the corresponding five months a year ago. The present rate of recruiting is satisfactory with the January showing of 1,162 for the three Services being the best month since the war. Continued at this rate recruiting would fill the Navy, Army and Air Force up to the present authorized strengths towards the end of 1949 or early in 1950.

Another cause for the increase is for new equipment and construction for all three Services, including ships for the Navy and planes for the Air Force. This greater military preparedness is a direct reaction to those dangers which have made necessary the conclusion of the proposed North Atlantic Pact.

It may be pointed out that during the year 1948-49 the married quarters program for the three Services will have cost approximately \$12,694,832.

In the year 1949-50, approximately \$16,741,791 is provided in the Defence estimates for the married quarters program but in addition the estimates for the Department of Reconstruction and Supply will include provision of accommodation for married personnel of the Armed Forces at an accelerated rate which may run to over \$40,000,000 for 1949-50. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been charged with the responsibility for the construction of the great majority of married quarters for the Armed Services as well as civilian veterans, since married quarters in the Armed Services go to veterans. In addition to reducing the Government's outlay for marriage allowances, each family moving out of a civilian home to married quarters makes available another home for a civilian.

**IRON AND STEEL:** Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills in 1948 -- exclusive of producers' interchange -- increased 11 per cent over the preceding year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. During the year, 2,622,900 tons were shipped as compared with 2,355,463 in 1947. Shipments in December declined to 212,886 tons from 219,363 in November, but showed a substantial gain over the 178,273 in the corresponding month a year earlier.

Producers' interchange, or the tonnage shipped to producers' own works for further

processing totalled 965,801 tons in 1948 as compared with 806,347 a year ago, and in December, 66,005 tons compared with 77,298 in November and 84,376 in December, 1947.

**FARM IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY:** Gross selling value of products of the farm implements and machinery industry reached a high total in 1947, of \$89,423,469, showing an increase of 41 per cent over the preceding year's figure of \$63,238,542, according to the annual industry report issued by the Bureau of Statistics. Ontario accounted for 95 per cent of the total output.

Production of farm equipments in this industry amounted to \$79,966,899 in 1947 as compared with \$52,247,004 a year ago, the remainder of the output in each year being made up of industrial machinery, dairy equipment, etc. In other industries, there was a small production of farm machinery amounting to \$3,963,218 as against \$1,743,846 a year earlier.

**LORD WAVELL HONORARY COLONEL:** Field Marshal the Right Hon. Lord Wavell, PC, GCB, GCSI, CMG, MC, has accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel of the 59th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (Lanark and Renfrew Scottish) according to an announcement on March 17 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

The 59th is a regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery, Canadian Army Reserve Force, with headquarters at Perth, Ont.

**STOCKS OF BUTTER:** Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on March 11 amounted to 9,118,000 pounds, 18.5 per cent greater than last year's corresponding total of 7,697,000 pounds, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Holdings were higher in each of the nine cities with the exception of Winnipeg and Calgary.

**MAN-HOURS AND EARNINGS:** Average weekly earnings of hourly-rated personnel employed by leading manufacturers at January 1 amounted to \$39.46, a decline of \$2.01 from the December 1 figure of \$41.47, but a rise of \$6.29 over the January 1, 1948 average of \$33.17, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

A new maximum was reached in the four-year record of hourly earnings, the general average rising to 97.2 cents from 96 cents in the week of December 1 and 86.6 cents a year earlier.

The 773,635 wage-earners for whom a record of man-hours is kept in manufacturing as a whole worked an average of 40.6 hours in the holiday week ending January 1, or 2.6 hours less than in the week of December 1, but 2.3 hours more than in the same week last year.