

SOME SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE R.C.A.F.

MINISTER'S ADDRESS: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, addressed No. 1 Radar and Communications Unit, R.C.A.F., at the Unit's Headquarters, in Montreal, on February 15. He lauded the work of the Unit, reviewed the contribution of Canadians to radar protection during the Second World War, and, in conclusion, gave what he described as "some significant developments in the R.C.A.F." His summarization was, in part, as follows:

"The bringing of No. 1 Radar Squadron to a strength of 490, successfully launches a new type of reserve unit.... In addition to the headquarters operational and training centre in Montreal, the unit has or is to have air control and warning detachments in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Shawinigan, Three Rivers and St. Johns.

"Montreal will be followed by other radar units, particularly in Halifax, Toronto and Vancouver.

"R.C.A.F. reserve activities which had heretofore been almost entirely concentrated on auxiliary squadrons will be broadened to include the formation of units for training a variety of key personnel in both technical and administrative trades.

"Of the 11 squadrons authorized, 10 are in active operation and the 11th will become active this year. Good progress is being made with recruiting of air crew and ground crew as well as with training....

"It would serve no good purpose to publish locations either of existing or projected radar sites. All publicity tending to reveal

such information must be of value to any prospective enemy whose planes, knowing the areas in which to expect radar detection, could choose a route calculated to postpone that detection as long as possible, and achieve the advantage of surprise.

"Extensions of the kind described will have to be geared to provision of accommodation and equipment.

"The twin-engine jet all-weather fighter, the CF-100, being flight-tested at Malton, is the most powerful fighter known, with range and navigational instruments specially designed to meet Canadian conditions, and this aircraft may put Canada ahead of any nation in meeting similar requirements. Even in advance of testing, a pre-production order has been placed to provide for tooling and the manufacture of parts.

"Work is proceeding satisfactorily on the order of 100 F-86A's being built by Canadair Limited.

"The production of these two military types and the jet transport, taken with the production of three types of conventional planes and considerable activities in several plants, supports essential air industry in Canada.

"To supplement the radar equipment of the last war, orders have been placed with Canadian industries for new equipment of the latest and most powerful types.

"Canada's emphasis on Air Force is shown by the proportion of the money appropriated for the three services spent on air as follows: U.K. 29%; France 30%; U.S. 34%; Canada 42.6%."

FOREIGN EXCHANGE LAW INFRACTIONS: Fines and forfeitures totalling \$90,397 were imposed for infractions of Foreign Exchange Control regulations during the year 1949 it was announced on February 15. The total included 1,065 seizures of \$100 and under made by customs officials and 32 by R.C.M.P. personnel, amounting to \$33,726. Nine seizures totalling \$18,882 were the subject of actions in the Exchequer Court, which deals with all seizures of over \$100. In eight cases the Court ordered forfeiture of the goods or currency involved. One action was dismissed.

A total of 206 men and women were charged with offences under the Foreign Exchange Control Act and 201 convictions were obtained. Thirty-eight women and 163 men were fined a total of \$37,943 for various offences involving foreign exchange.

Of the 201 convictions registered during the year, 164 involved attempts to evade travel restrictions. One hundred and three cases involved attempts to take more currency across the border than allowed by law or shown on travel permits. Forty-one men and women were convicted on charges of purchasing more

than the amounts authorized for pleasure travel.

MR. CHEVRIER ON RAILWAY OUTLOOK: "Forthcoming developments which will take place in Canada in the next 15 years are more than sufficient to ensure a healthy rail situation," according to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. Addressing members of the Board of Trade Club of Toronto on February 20 he urged them to "think seriously of the problems of transportation with a view to rectifying the unsatisfactory trend which has developed in recent years".

The Minister pointed out that "Canada has grown industrially by leaps and bounds in the last ten or so years," and that during that time industrial production had more than trebled and the number of industrial plants had increased from 24,800 to 32,700. He listed the St. Lawrence Deep Waterway project, the Quebec-Labrador and the Steep Rock iron ore deposits, mineral discoveries in Quebec and Manitoba and development of the oil fields in Alberta, as potential creators of traffic for the railway transportation industry.