

tives of veterans organizations, and other distinguished Canadians.

Flags on the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa and on all federal buildings and defence establishments throughout the country were flown at half mast until Saturday evening.

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### VETERAN RCN VESSELS RETIRED

The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer, announced recently that a 22-year-old-destroyer escort and three 20-year-old ocean escorts of the Atlantic Command of the Royal Canadian Navy would shortly be turned over to the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation. These are the destroyer escort "Iroquois", which has been in reserve at Sydney, Nova Scotia, since being paid off in October 1962, and the ocean escorts "Lanark", "Buckingham" and "Fort Erie", which have been alongside at Halifax since last November.

The decision to dispose of these four ships was an economic one. Their condition is such that extensive, costly refitting would be required to return them to even a degree of acceptable operational state. "The costs involved, together with their limited effectiveness in modern anti-submarine warfare", the Minister's statement said, "preclude the allocation of resources necessary to retain the ships either in commission or in reserve."

### ADDITIONS TO ATLANTIC FLEET

While this decision will reduce by four the number of ships in Canada's Atlantic fleet, the addition of new and improved vessels within the past year has effected a considerable increase in the anti-submarine capability of the naval forces on the East Coast.

Two new helicopter-carrying destroyer escorts, the "Nipigon" and "Annapolis", joined the Atlantic fleet in 1964, as did two destroyers, the "Assiniboine" and "St. Laurent", which returned to service after being converted to carry helicopters. All four ships are also equipped with variable-depth sonar.

A third destroyer, the "Ottawa", similarly converted, will join the Atlantic fleet in March. Three more ships, the "Skeena", "Saguenay" and "Margaree", will rejoin the fleet this year on completion of their conversion to carrying helicopters.

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### NATIONAL FISH MONTH

Special recognition is to be given to the Canadian fishing industry and the resource on which it is built during the current year. This will result from a proclamation by Fisheries Minister H.J. Robichaud declaring October 1965 "National Fish'n Seafood Month".

Mr. Robichaud's announcement points to the important role the country's vast ocean and freshwater fish resources have played in the discovery and development of Canada from coast to coast. It emphasizes, also, the valuable contributions the fishing industry makes to the livelihood of thousands

of Canadians and to the nutritional well-being of populations at home as well as those in the widely dispersed foreign markets to which Canadian fish products flow.

### FISHERIES IN THE ECONOMY

Some 80,000 Canadian fishermen engage part-time or full-time in the fisheries. The total landed value reached the vicinity of \$125 million in 1964 and the market value of products approximated \$250 million. Apart from those directly engaged in the industry, many thousands more benefit from the employment the fisheries provide in the packaging, transportation and other allied industries.

Canadians catch about 150 species of fish and shellfish, which are processed and marketed in a wide variety of products and go to countries all over the globe. As a result, Canada is one of the world's three leading exporters of fish.

New impetus was given to the modernization of the fishing industry by the National Fisheries Development Conference held in Ottawa last year. Rapid expansion is now taking place in the construction of new fishing vessels, the introduction of new fishing techniques and the improvement of fish-handling facilities.

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### CANADIAN HEADS MEASURES BODY

Dr. L. E. Howlett, director of the division of applied physics of the National Research Council, has been elected the seventh president of the International Committee of Weights and Measures. This constitutes world recognition of Canadian research on the fundamental physical standards of measurement.

The International Committee consists of 18 members, each elected for his personal scientific distinction. No more than one member may come from the same country.

### NRC CONTRIBUTIONS

The division of applied physics of the National Research Council seriously entered the field of measurement research about 15 years ago. Its contributions include the following:

Research of the interferometric section helped prepare for the decision, made in 1960, to base the world's standard of length on a wave length of light.

The interferometric section had the first comparator permitting length-scales to be measured directly in terms of wave lengths of light.

Work done in the heat and solid state physics section led to significant improvements of the International Temperature Scale.

The electricity section was one of the first groups in the world to operate a cesium "clock", which is paving the way for the second of time to be defined in terms of a vibration within an atom instead of the motion of the earth about the sun.

The radiation optics section is in the forefront of a re-examination of the adequacy of the present unit of brightness, called the "candela".