

AGE LIMITS: Army Headquarters said this week that until existing regulations are brought up to date, the following maximum age limits apply for applicants for commissions in the Canadian Army Reserve Force: in Armoured Corps, Artillery, Infantry or Army Service Corps units, 28 years; in Engineer, Signals, Ordnance or RCME units, 30 years; and in the Medical, Dental, Pay, Provost or Intelligence Corps, 35 years. Maximum age limit for the appointment of Chaplains to units of the Reserve Force is 50 years. The age restrictions apply only to first commissions in the rank of 2nd Lieutenant or Lieutenant.

All applicants between the ages of 17 and 45 years are eligible for enlistment in the ranks.

ROYAL VISITOR: The following particulars with respect to the forthcoming visit to Ottawa of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Belgium have been given to the Press by the Department of External Affairs.

His Royal Highness will be accompanied on his visit to Ottawa by Mr. Paul Henri Spaak, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Mr. Paul de Groote, Minister of Economic Co-operation of Belgium, and by members of their staffs.

The Prince Regent will arrive in his own aircraft at Rockcliffe Airport at noon on Friday, April 16, where he will be welcomed to Canada by the Deputy Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and other members of the Government. His Royal Highness and the members of the Belgian Government will lunch informally with the Prime Minister at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. During the afternoon the Prince Regent will visit the Parliament Buildings. Mr. Spaak, the Prime Minister of Belgium, will meet the press. In the evening His Royal Highness will be the guest of the Government of Canada at a dinner in his honour at the Country Club.

At one o'clock on Saturday, April 17, His Royal Highness will lay a wreath at the National War Memorial, after which he will entertain at luncheon at the Belgian Embassy. In the evening the Prince Regent will be the Prime Minister's guest at dinner at Laurier House and afterwards at the Minto Follies.

On Sunday, April 18, the Prince Regent will leave Canada by air for Belgium from Rockcliffe Airport.

FOREIGN TRADE: Foreign trade of Canada in February was valued at \$392,500,000, the highest figure ever shown for the month, but the lowest monthly total since the corresponding month last year when the value was \$358,900,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase over February 1947 was 9.3 per cent. For the two months, January

and February, the aggregate value was \$837,600,000 as compared with \$743,200,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Merchandise imports in February, with a value of \$182,200,000 were at a record level for the month, although lower than in any month since February last year, comparing with \$206,100,000 in January and \$177,100,000 in February, 1947. During the first two months of this year, imports were valued at \$388,200,000 compared with \$350,900,000 in the like period of 1947.

Merchandise exports in February were valued at \$208,300,000, a peacetime high figure for the month, although the lowest month's total since April last year. The figure for January was \$235,400,000 and for February last year, \$179,500,000.

The overall commodity trade balance was favourable to Canada to the extent of \$28,100,000 compared with \$33,000,000 in January and \$4,700,000 in February last year. Favourable balance with the United Kingdom in February was \$33,900,000 compared with \$43,400,000 in January and \$34,500,000 a year ago. The debit balance with the United States declined further to \$40,500,000 compared with \$43,200,000 in January and \$67,100,000 in February last year.

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS: Canada's merchandise imports in February were valued at \$182,200,000, showing a small advance over last year's corresponding total of \$177,100,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for the first two months of this year was \$388,200,000 as compared with \$350,900,000 in the similar period of 1947, an increase of 10 per cent.

Imports from the United States showed a slight recession in February, being valued at \$136,847,000 compared with \$138,429,000 in February last year, while the total for the two months, January and February, was \$286,823,000 as against \$274,877,000 in the like period of 1947, a rise of four per cent. Imports from the United Kingdom were higher in February, amounting to \$17,872,000 as against \$10,515,000, bringing the two-month total to \$39,462,000 as against \$24,773,000.

Imports from Venezuela, the next largest source of supply during the month, were valued at \$4,967,000 as against \$2,548,000, followed by India and Pakistan at \$2,140,000 compared with \$5,531,000, Cuba \$2,052,000 compared with \$759,000, Mexico \$1,930,000 compared with \$781,000, Brazil \$1,698,000 (\$481,000), Gold Coast \$1,270,000 (\$831,000), New Zealand \$1,236,000 (\$1,520,000), Netherlands West Indies \$856,000 (\$385,000), Philippine Islands \$847,000 (\$688,000), and Colombia \$845,000 (\$1,516,000).

Declines were shown for seven of the nine main commodity groups of imports. Sharpest drop was registered by the fibres and textiles group which fell from \$32,700,000 in February

last year to \$22,300,000. Cotton and products, flax, hemp and jute, and artificial silk were lower, and wool and products higher. The iron and products group rose from \$48,604,000 to \$61,031,000, with advances in farm implements and machinery, other machinery, automobile parts, engines and boilers, but decreases in freight and passenger automobiles.

The non-metallic minerals group rose from \$25,198,000 to \$36,090,000, gains being shown for coal, coal products, crude petroleum and petroleum products. The non-ferrous metals group was down slightly at \$10,195,000 compared with \$11,173,000, as was the chemicals group at \$8,411,000 compared with \$8,466,000.

The agricultural and vegetable products group fell from \$25,675,000 to \$22,678,000, fruits, vegetables, tea, vegetable oils, and rubber being lower, and sugar, cocoa and chocolate, and coffee and chicory higher. The animals and animal products group fell from \$8,225,000 to \$7,118,000, wood, wood products and paper from \$6,520,000 to \$5,797,000, and the miscellaneous group from \$10,555,000 to \$8,594,000.

ALBERTA FARMS: The total number of occupied farms in Alberta on June 1, 1946 was 89,541, as compared with 99,732 in 1941, according to preliminary Census figures. Of the 1946 total, 3.5 per cent were farms 1-50 acres in size, 1.9 per cent were 51-100 acres in size, and 31.6 per cent, 101-200 acres in size. This compared with 3.4 per cent in 1941 and 3.0 per cent in 1936 in the 1-50 acre size; 2.1 per cent in 1941 and 2.0 per cent in 1936 in the 51-100 acre size; and 36.9 per cent in 1941 and 40.3 per cent in 1936 in the 101-200 acre size.

The reduction in the total number and percentage of farms in the 101-200 acre size reflects the decrease in the number of quarter section farms in Alberta. In fact the total number of farms of 200 acres or less declined by 21.6 per cent in the five-year period from 1941 to 1946. There was an increase in the percentage of farms in all size groups over 200 acres in 1946 when compared with 1941 and 1936. Between 1941 and 1946 there was actually an increase of 2.1 per cent in the total number of farms of 640 acres or over.

NATIONAL PARKS IMPROVEMENT: Honourable James MacKinnon, Acting Minister of Mines and Resources announced that the Governor in Council had approved the recommendation that a Calgary Company be awarded the contract for the reconstruction and preparation for hard-surfacing of the 67-mile Jasper Park end of the Banff-Jasper Highway and the improvement of the 7-mile road which leads to Mount Edith Cavell also in Jasper Park, Alberta. The same company will reconstruct and prepare for hard-surfacing a substantial portion of the Banff-Windermere

Highway in Banff and Kootenay National Parks. The estimated total expenditure involved in these projects will be in the neighbourhood of \$900,000.

The Minister pointed out that quick action had been taken to implement the previously announced policy of improving National Parks highways with a view to maintaining and increasing the valuable flow of tourist travel to these great scenic and recreational areas. To date contracts, with a total value of more than \$2,000,000, have been awarded.

AERIAL PHOTO OPERATIONS: The RCAF's 1948 aerial photo operations have started, with three Dakota aircraft of 414 Squadron, Rockcliffe, on their way to Calgary, to commence photo flights in that area, it was announced by Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa. The three aircraft, making up one of the numerous detachments which will operate in the field during the season, left Rockcliffe Monday morning, and are scheduled to arrive in Calgary on Tuesday, after an over-night stop in Winnipeg.

The detachment will move north from Calgary around May 1, depending upon snow conditions, and will operate from Whitehorse, Y.T., Watson Lake, Y.T., and Fort Nelson, B.C., and it is expected that more than 81,000 square miles will be covered by the three planes, before they return to Rockcliffe around the first of September.

In all, it is hoped that approximately 550,000 square miles will be covered this year by the RCAF's No. 22 Photo Wing, although it is emphasized by Air Force officials that coverage is greatly dependent upon the weather. Last year's crews covered over 400,000 square miles, despite bad weather conditions.

IMMIGRATION INCREASE: A 133.4 per cent increase in immigration to Canada for the first two months of 1948 over the corresponding period of last year, was announced by the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources. The Branch also announced the scheduled arrival early next week of the steamship "Kota Inten" carrying 740 Dutch immigrants to Canada.

The immigrants aboard the "Kota Inten" are family groups who will be going to farms in all nine provinces. This is the second trip of the "Kota Inten," which brought an earlier group of Dutch families to Canada on March 22.

During January and February, 12,457 immigrants reached Canada, as compared to 5,337 in the same months of 1947. Immigrants from the British Isles numbered 6,313, a 77.7 per cent increase over the total of 3,552 for the corresponding months of 1947.

There was a marked rise in the numbers of immigrants from continental Europe, the two-month figure being 5,223, as against only 545 for the same period a year ago.