

WAR MEDALS IN OCTOBER: Campaign stars and war medals earned for Second World War service in France, Italy, the Pacific and other theatres of operations, as well as on the high seas and in the air, will start going out to Canadian veterans next October.

The announcement came on February 4 from the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Veterans' Affairs. They stated that by September 30 the Royal Canadian Mint expects to have sufficient stocks on hand to meet the first requirements, and medals needed after that date will be more than filled out of day-to-day production.

In early September all post offices in Canada will have cards available for veterans to fill in and forward to Ottawa postage free, so that the medals may be sent out to their correct addresses.

Full details regarding the distribution will be given through the press and radio when the medals are ready for issue.

Medals and stars for personnel presently serving in Canada's Armed Forces will be issued by their own Service headquarters, while those for all other veterans will be issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

LIVING COSTS RISE: Exactly offsetting the decline during the previous month, Canada's official cost-of-living index rose from 158.9 at December 1 to 159.6 at the beginning of January. While all budget indexes were firm, more than half of the rise was due to changes in service rates, including health, personal care, laundry and fuel gas, which are prices only at annual intervals because of their characteristic stability, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

At the January level, the cost-of-living index is 11.3 points above that shown for the same time last year. From August 1939 to the beginning of January this year the increase amounted to 58.3 per cent.

The food index rose from 202.0 at the beginning of December to 202.2, with further declines in egg and fruit prices acting as a partial offset to generally firmer levels for other foods. Fuel and light moved up from 129.1 to 130.0.

The clothing index rose from 181.5 to 181.9, and homefurnishings and services from 166.2 to 167.0, on scattered increases which affected nearly all sub-groups. The advance in miscellaneous items from 124.6 to 126.6, reflected changes in health and personal care services. The rentals index remained unchanged at 121.7

At January 3 this year the standing of the cost-of-living index was 7.6 per cent higher than a year earlier. Among the group indexes the greatest increase during the 12 months was in the clothing index, which rose 12.8 per cent from 161.2 to 181.9. Food was second with an increase of nearly 11 per cent, from 182.2, to 202.2; followed by fuel and light, up nearly eight per cent from 120.4 to 130.0, and by

homefurnishings and services with an increase of 5.4 per cent from 158.4 to 167.0. The miscellaneous index rose 3.3 per cent from 122.6 to 126.6, while the rent index advanced about 1.5 per cent from 119.9 to 121.7.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: There was a considerable increase in the number of claims filed for unemployment insurance benefits in December with all provinces contributing to the rise. The December total of claims filed stands at 114,506 as compared with 73,119 in November and 79,848 in December, 1947, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Ordinary claims on the live unemployment register at the end of December totalled 144,058 as against 83,710 at the end of November and 94,525 at the end of December, 1947.

A total of 99,802 persons received one or more benefit payments in December aggregating \$3,592,155 for 1,687,804 unemployed compensated days, compared with 64,960 persons paid \$2,283,383 for 1,106,864 compensated days in November and 69,097 persons paid \$2,544,796 for 1,315,282 compensated days during December, 1947. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 16.9 days in December, 17.0 days in November and 19.0 days in December, 1947.

The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$35.99 in December, \$35.15 in November and \$36.83 in December, 1947, while the average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.13 in December, \$2.06 in November and \$1.93 in December a year earlier.

CO-ORDINATE RCAF SIGNALS: Co-ordination of all RCAF signals activities under one Chief of Signals has been carried out at Air Force Headquarters, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton announced on February 8.

Previously each division at Air Force Headquarters was assigned separate signals responsibilities. The Operations and Training division controlled the allocation and usage of radio and radar equipment while the Technical Services division developed and supplied the equipment. Now all RCAF signals functions are amalgamated in one department providing overall co-ordination and control.

Taking over the new post as Chief of Signals is Air Commodore W.A. Orr, CBE, of Wetaskiwin, Alta. and Ottawa, a University of Alberta graduate who was commissioned in the RCAF in 1932 and has been a signals officer since 1937. He is a graduate of the specialist signals course of the RAF Electrical and Wireless School, and the Imperial Defence College, both in England. Appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1946, A/C Orr was Deputy Air Member for Air Plans, Organization, at Air Force Headquarters prior to taking up his new duties.

TOURIST SPENDING RECORD: American travel expenditures in Canada in 1948 set a new high record of about \$270,000,000, according to preliminary figures announced in the January issue of the Canadian Statistical Review. Only in two other years, 1946 and 1947, have United States spendings on travel in Canada totalled more than \$200,000,000, when they were \$216,000,000 and \$241,000,000, respectively.

Canadian expenditures in the United States in 1948 are placed at \$112,000,000, down sharply from the totals of \$130,000,000 in 1946 and \$152,000,000 in 1947, due mainly to the restrictions on the amount of money available to Canadians visiting the United States and to the suspension -- now removed -- of the customs regulation whereby \$100 worth of goods could be brought into this country free of duty by a traveller remaining out of Canada for more than 48 hours.

As a result of the simultaneous increase in American spendings in Canada and a decrease in Canadian expenditures in the United States, the net credit in Canada's favour of \$158,000,000 in 1948 exceeded any previously recorded. Only in the years 1929 and 1930 has this credit reached \$100,000,000. The credit balance in 1948 is slightly more than double the \$78,000,000 average for the last 23 years. In 1946 and 1947 the credits were \$86,000,000 and \$90,000,000, respectively.

The international travel industry has become a major source of United States dollars, the Review points out, ranking second only to newsprint paper in recent years. During the period 1926-1948 inclusive, it has been estimated, American visitors have spent in Canada approximately \$3,300,000,000, while Canadians have spent in the United States about \$1,500,000,000.

CRUDE PETROLEUM: With production from the Leduc field again sharply higher, Canada's production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline rose to a new high record total of 1,265,000 barrels in November, comparing with the October total of 1,206,000, and 731,000 in November, 1947. The previous high record was set in August 1948, when 1,245,000 barrels were produced. The November figure brought the output for the first 11 months of 1948 to 11,120,000 barrels as against 6,963,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Leduc's output rose in November to 617,000 barrels from 85,000 in the corresponding month of 1947, and in the 11 months ending November to 3,996,000 barrels from 264,000. Crude output from the Turner Valley field fell from 399,000 barrels to 350,000, and in the 11 months from 4,602,000 barrels to 4,082,000.

RAILWAY OPERATIONS: Operating revenues of Canadian railways in November aggregated \$80,750,000, a new peak for the month. This was \$14,155,000 or 21.3 per cent higher than

in November a year earlier, but off nearly \$2,090,000 from the peak established in October. The net improvement over the previous November was mainly in freight revenues which rose 26.2 per cent to \$67,553,000, while passenger revenues declined by \$351,000 to \$5,433,000, or by 6.1 per cent. Express and mail receipts were up \$401,000 to \$3,006,000.

Expenses reported for the month also increased considerably, totalling \$65,303,000 as against \$55,709,000, for an increase of 17.2 per cent. Each expense item registered an increase with maintenance rising \$3,643,000 to \$24,809,000, and transportation advancing \$5,330,000 to \$34,849,000.

In the income accounts, tax accruals, hire of equipment and rental of joint facilities were heavier, but operating income improved from \$7,473,000 to \$11,750,000. The net betterment of \$4,278,000 gained over November, 1947, and was the best showing for any month in 1948. Operating income was the highest since June, 1945.

For the 11 months of 1948, revenues increased from \$707,889,000 to \$789,066,000, but operating expenses showed a greater increase and the operating income was reduced from \$45,819,000 to \$28,075,000.

CANADIAN AVIATION: That Canada is setting a pattern for other nations to follow in the development of international air transport facilities was emphasized on February 4 by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. In a luncheon address delivered before the International Chamber of Commerce in Toronto, Mr. Chevrier brought out some outstanding revelations with regard to Canada's development of its airport and airways system over the past ten years.

The Minister said that "Canada is at the crossroads of international air travel". He pointed to twelve civil airports stretching from coast to coast which have regular international commercial air services coming in to them. This was in addition to numerous other airports serving domestic needs. "All of these airports", he said "have been constructed to the standards required for international air operations as established by the International Civil Aviation Organization".

With respect to her international obligations in civil aviation, the Minister said that Canada firmly subscribed to the belief that "the future development of international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world". He stated that experience to date has more than justified this view and it is significant that 51 world states have already accepted the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

"Canada has taken and is taking a very active part in the work of ICAO and much is being accomplished in all spheres under this organization," he said, and then pointed to