

400 CANADIAN WOMEN WON WAR DECORATIONS: A summary of awards to members of Canada's Armed Forces who served during World War II reveals that the women as well as the men made notable contributions to victory. Although none of the female members of the services won a Victoria Cross -- the Empire's highest award for gallantry -- more than 400 of them earned decorations for courage and devotion to duty when the going was "rough".

Almost 50,000 Canadian women played an active part in the war and of this number thousands served overseas.

The majority of the awards to women went to Nursing Sisters who served with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. They were awarded 272 decorations ranging from the Officer of the Order of the British Empire to a Czech decoration for merit. One hundred and four Army nurses were mentioned in despatches. The Women's Division of the RCAF received 14 awards of Member of the Order of the British Empire and 39 British Empire Medals. Fifty were Mentioned in Despatches for a total of 103 decorations. The CWAC and the WCRNS followed in that order with a total of 84 and 22 decorations respectively.

In addition to awards or "mentions" for gallantry, women ex-members of all three branches of the service are entitled to wear the CVSM, the Defence Medal and the War Medal as well as the various campaign ribbons provided they served in the theatre for which the medal was awarded.

In all, Canadian servicemen and women received a total of 22,344 British and 1,742 foreign awards from September 1939 to March 31, 1947.

COST OF LIVING UP

INDEX RECORDS SHARP INCREASE: Showing the sharpest monthly increase since May, 1920, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-1939=100, rose 2.8 points, bringing the advance since August 1939 to 38.3 per cent between August and September 2, to a new postwar high of 139.4.

At the September 2 level the index was 12.4 points higher than at the first of the year and 13.9 points above the beginning of September last year.

Substantial increases in prices for foods, clothing, and homefurnishings and services were the principal factors in the month's advance. In the food series there was a gain of 4.7 points from 160.6 on August 1 to 165.3, reflecting advances - among other items - for butter, eggs, meats, tea, coffee, lemons and oranges, which outweighed a seasonal decline in potatoes. The index for the clothing group rose 6.5 points from 145.5 to 152.0, due to increases concentrated mainly in men's and women's wear, notably overcoats, topcoats and suits. In the homefurnishings and services group there was a gain of 3.7 points from 143.7 to 147.4, resulting principally from

further substantial advances in furniture, floor coverings and homefurnishings.

Among the remaining three components, scattered increases for coal and coke lifted the fuel and light index 2.5 points to 121.1, which compares with 107.2 a year earlier. Higher health and personal care costs moved the index for miscellaneous items up slightly from 117.2 at August 1 to 117.5. The rentals index at 117.8 was the only one remaining unchanged.

ADMISSION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

FURTHER 10,000 AUTHORIZED: The Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Glen announces that the Canadian Government has agreed to the admission to Canada of a further 10,000 refugees from the Displaced Persons camps of Europe. This will bring to a total of 20,000 the number of displaced persons that the Government has agreed to admit to Canada.

It is understood that this 20,000 will be counted against any quota that Canada may ultimately accept as a result of an International agreement in connection with this problem.

C.B.C. OFFICIAL ELECTED RADIO CONVENER: Miss Elizabeth Long, director of women's interests for the CBC was elected World Convener of Broadcasting for the International Council of Women at the Council's first post-war conference held in September in Philadelphia. The conference was attended by 1,000 delegates representing 40 million women in 35 countries.

Miss Long was nominated by the National Council of Women of Switzerland, seconded by Canada.

ARMY COMMISSIONS AVAILABLE: More than 6,000 commissions in both Active and Reserve Forces of the Canadian Army will be available to members of the Canadian Officers Training Corps during the next four years, announces the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton.

The Canadian Officers Training Corps, now embarking on its 1947-48 fall and winter training programme, is, at present, the chief supply source of officer material for the postwar army. Enlistment in the corps is open to all students of Canadian universities having authorized COTC contingents.

The COTC training programme is of three years duration, at the conclusion of which the student becomes eligible for a commission in the Canadian Army, in either the Active or Reserve Force. Training is divided into theoretical and practical phases, the theoretical being carried out during the student's first, second and third years at University, and the practical during the summer vacation periods by a series of attachments to the Canadian Army Active Force.

PROSPERITY, LIKE PEACE, INDIVISIBLE: Walter A. Tucker M.P., Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs speaking in the United Nations Economic Committee Oct. 6, said:

"The Canadian Government believes that if the Economic and Social Council effectively discharges its obligations it will come to be regarded more and more as the most constructive single organ of the United Nations (with the exception of course of the General Assembly itself). While we in no sense underestimate the supreme importance of the tasks for which the Security Council is responsible, these tasks are preventive rather than constructive - to prevent aggression and threats to the peace. The tasks of the Economic and Social Council, on the other hand, are essentially positive and constructive - to promote human well-being, higher standards of living, and human progress generally. Of course the work of the Security Council is fundamental to any real and lasting progress. It is the main organ designed to prevent mankind from ever again slipping backward into conditions which provoke war. No lasting progress can be made towards bettering the lot of mankind if it is to be plagued with constantly recurring and ever more dreadful and cruel war. But if a basis of lasting and unquestioned peace can be established, steady progress becomes possible. The Economic and Social Council has been given the function of pointing the way towards that progress, of helping mankind to move forward toward a fuller and richer life and toward the attainment of those larger human freedoms to which we all pledged ourselves in our Charter.

TRUSTEES IN REAL SENSE

As we all know article 24 of the Charter states explicitly that the Security Council in carrying out its duty for the maintenance of international peace and security acts on behalf of all the members of the United Nations. This principle I suggest applies with no less force to the Economic and Social Council in the exercise of its own powers in its own field. I think all my colleagues here will agree that the record of its work thus far shows the members of the Council have approached its problems fully aware of this provision in the Charter and have considered themselves as trustees in a very real sense for all members of the United Nations, whether represented on the Council or not.

The work of the Economic and Social Council, while vitally important, has not been of such dramatic nature as to draw full attention of the public and thereby have the benefit of an aroused public opinion. However, as the work of the Council progresses, its importance will more and more come to be recognized and will more and more win such support. It can hope to go forward steadily, for unlike the Security Council its rules of voting are not such that an obdurate minority can nullify any action

which the majority may consider necessary and wise. When we examine the activities of the Economic and Social Council, we see a picture of work in progress. Admittedly there have been instances of disappointing and costly, if sometimes inevitable, delay; but happily there has been no suggestion of the frustration of stalemate. While there has as yet been little, in the way of completed achievements, a careful examination of the work in progress reveals developments that may prove profoundly significant in the gradual establishment of a truly successful international organization.

PROGRESS IN PROBLEMS OF SUBSTANCE

Because much of the Council's work thus far has necessarily been concerned with the preliminary problems of organization, progress has been slower than many hoped or expected. While this organizational period has not even yet been completed, during the past year particularly real progress in problems of substance has admittedly been made.

The Council, with the assistance of its appropriate commissions and sub-commissions, has begun to seek the solution of many problems which have a direct bearing on the social well-being and economic stability of all nations. The forthcoming conference in Havana, to complete the establishment of an International Trade Organization, is one example of the important work sponsored by the Council. This specialized agency when established will be a landmark in the development of multilateralism - an achievement of worthy note in a world in which nationalism and the jealous protection of sovereignty and states' rights seem at the moment to be even on the increase - incredible as this may seem in the light of the experience of mankind since the fateful year 1914. Many difficulties certainly lie ahead but these in no way discourage us from hoping that the successful attainment of the important aims embodied in the draft Charter of the I.T.O. may be prosecuted with energy and determination.

However, we should never lose sight of the fact that international action, if it is to be successful in this field, must be upheld by vigorous programmes by each nation within its own borders to build up optimum production and by a willingness to accept payment from other nations in goods and services for its own surplus production.

WELL THOUGHT-OUT REPORTS

During the past year the Council received and considered for the first time reports from the various functional commissions which it had set up in 1946. Some of these reports are, in the opinion of the Canadian delegation, well thought-out and workman-like documents, on the basis of which useful projects may be commenced, for example, the first reports of the statistical and population commissions. We