

CIVIL DEFENCE PROGRAMME: In outlining Canada's Civil Defence programme in Windsor, Ontario, on November 25, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, first noted that "the Armed Forces have established a radar network to cover the main industrial area of Canada and the United States which will use all possible means to detect and identify strange aircraft," and summarized further developments as follows:

A federal Civil Defence College, which will shortly move to more adequate quarters, is now in full operation and is training 1,500 key workers and instructors each year. These persons, in turn, pass on this training to many thousands at the provincial and local levels.

Over 70,000 respirators and substantial quantities of helmets, anti-gas suits, and other protective clothing, together with a smaller quantity of radiation detection instruments, have been issued to the provinces for the use of civil defence workers.

Fifty self-propelled, fully-equipped fire engines are being provided to the provinces at a cost of more than \$600,000.

Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario have taken advantage of the federal offer to pay one-third of the cost of standardizing fire hose-couplings.

Since 1952, federal grants of \$1,400,000 a year have been available, on a matching basis, for approved provincial civil defence projects. As yet only the four Western provinces and Newfoundland have taken advantage of this federal offer.

The federal Government has also entered into agreements with the provinces to share the expense of providing compensation for injury to civil defence workers.

Detailed plans are being worked out for the active support of civil defence by the Armed Forces under arrangements similar to those where the Armed Forces support civilian authorities in cases of national disaster.

Over a million copies of various manuals, pamphlets and other literature have been distributed and a vigorous programme of public education through press, radio, billboards, exhibits and films is in progress.

A medical stockpiling programme has been initiated to ensure that adequate quantities of essential medical supplies would be available in the event of any major wartime or peacetime disaster.

A formal agreement has been concluded with the United States providing for mutual assistance and support in the same manner as if there were no border.

To ensure co-operation with other friendly nations, Canada has become a member of the NATO Civil Defence Co-ordinating Committee and the Federal Civil Defence Co-ordinator, Major-General Worthington, has attended its first two meetings.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS: Regular publication of Canada's national accounts - gross national product and expenditure and related series - on a quarterly basis was begun on November 23 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics with the release of a major report "National Accounts, Income and Expenditure, by Quarters, 1947-52" and a supplementary report containing estimates for the first and second quarters of 1953. These quarterly data, the major report observes, will fill an important gap in statistics which are available for studying current economic trends. While the annual estimates provide essential background material, the new quarterly data will facilitate analysis of current economic developments and permit a closer view of past trends and turning points.

Canada's gross national product in the first half of this year was running at an average annual rate of just over \$24 billion, a gain of about six or seven per cent over the first half of last year in terms of physical volume of production, according to the supplementary report. Wages and salaries continued to show steady quarter to quarter gains in 1953 if allowance is made for seasonal factors, reaching an annual rate of \$11.7 billion in the second quarter.

With prices remaining relatively stable, these gains supported a substantial growth in personal expenditure on consumer goods and services. This rose in value from an annual rate of \$14.3 billion in the second quarter of 1952 to \$15.1 billion in the second quarter of this year. At the same time, the proportion of disposable income saved remained quite high in the six months, averaging \$1.4 billion at annual rates.

Government expenditure on goods and services, on the other hand, appeared to have levelled off, with the average annual rate of expenditure in the first half of 1953 at \$4.3 billion compared with \$4.2 billion for the year 1952. In the field of Canada's foreign trade, a deficit on current account was incurred during the period.

RETAIL SALES RISE: Canada's retail establishments had estimated sales in the first nine months of this year totalling \$8,831,959,000, an increase of 5.4 per cent over last year's corresponding total of \$8,379,795,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported November 18. September sales, at \$996,740,000, were three per cent above those of September last year, but 1.7 per cent under August.

NWT COMMISSIONER: Mr. R. Gordon Robertson, Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, has been appointed Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.