

CAMPAIGN MEDALS: Although a total of eleven campaign stars and medals will be distributed to former members of the Canadian armed forces in the Second World War, the most any one individual can be awarded is eight, according to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Gregg. Distribution of the stars and medals is expected to start about October 1, with it being necessary for all veterans to make application in order to insure that addresses are accurate.

"The war service records division of the department, which has been checking the files in order to establish eligibility, has not yet been able to locate a veteran who will receive all eight," Mr. Gregg said. "There are a few we know of who will receive seven, but we can't yet say positively that any Canadian veteran will receive eight."

The rarest decoration for the Canadian forces is the Burma Star. Only 5,200 of these will be distributed by Canada, with the majority of the recipients members of the R.C.A.F. who served in that theatre. Army personnel who receive this star will largely be those of Chinese or Japanese extraction sent to Burma to serve on intelligence duties or as interpreters.

400 COMBINATIONS

Officers in charge of distribution of the decorations have figured out that the Second World War, with its eleven stars and medals, along with the several clasps which may be earned, offers a possible 400 combinations of awards. This compares with only five possible combinations in World War 1 when only four medals and stars were awarded, including the 1914 Star and the 1914-15 Star. They cited one possible combination which would include the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star, the Italy Star, the France-Germany Star, the Pacific Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, the War Medal, a clasp signifying entitlement to the Atlantic Star and an Oak Leaf for having been mentioned in despatches. This same individual would be entitled to a figure "1" or "8" to signify service with either the 1st or 8th Army in North Africa.

Because of this large number of possible combinations a special booklet is being sent out to each veteran explaining the method and order of wearing for all decorations.

VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS: Visitors to the National Parks and National Historic Parks of Canada during August numbered 485,133, bringing the total for the first five months of the fiscal year 1949-50 to 1,502,650, a substantial increase over the record five-month total of last year, the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson, announced on September 22.

The major increases recorded by Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba, Elk Island National Park in Alberta, Point Pelee National Park in Ontario, and Fort Beausejour National

Historic Park in New Brunswick are indicative of the upward trend of travel to the Parks in all parts of the country.

Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba, had an increase of 72,022 over last year's attendance of 181,651, Elk Island National Park, Alberta, attracted 122,745 visitors, an increase of 108 per cent over the previous year, Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, had 190,190 visitors, an increase of 74 per cent, and attendance at Fort Beausejour National Historic Park, New Brunswick, was 131 per cent higher than in the corresponding five months of 1948.

An increase in the numbers of visitors from the United States and from other countries has been noticeable in the National Parks this summer.

GEOLOGY RESEARCH: Formation of seven sub-committees to deal with research on the various phases of geology was announced at Ottawa by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson, following the first meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Research in the Geological Sciences.

The National Advisory Committee, composed of representatives of the larger provincial Departments of Mines, geological faculties of universities, and the Geological Survey of Canada, was established by Order in Council, to set up fundamental research projects, correlate geological research in Canada, and maintain close liaison with the mining industry so that a programme to meet industrial needs to best advantage may be planned.

Named to the Executive Committee to whom reports of the sub-committees will be submitted, were:

Dr. G.S. Hume, Acting Director, Mines, Forests and Scientific Services Branch, Department of Mines and Resources.

Dr. George Hanson, Geological Survey of Canada, Department of Mines and Resources.

Dr. J.E. Gill, McGill University,

Dr. J.E. Hawley, Queen's University.

Heading the sub-committees are:

Metallic Mineral Deposits, Dr. G.M. Brownlee, University of Manitoba.

Non-metallic Mineral Deposits, Industrial Minerals, Coal and Oil, Dr. R.L. Rutherford, University of Alberta.

Palaeontology and Stratigraphy, Dr. I.W. Jones, Department of Mines, Quebec.

Mineralogy, Chemistry and Petrography, Dr. G.S. Mackenzie, University of New Brunswick.

Pleistocene and Glacial Geology, Water Supply, Engineering Geology and Geomorphology, Dr. A.L. Washburn, Arctic Institute of North America.

Application of Physical Methods to Geological Problems, Dr. J.T. Wilson, University of Toronto.

Scholarship and Research Training Committee, Dr. A.E. Cameron, Nova Scotia Technical College.

Other members of the National Advisory Committee are: Dr. J.F. Walker, Dept. Mines of British Columbia who was represented at the meeting by Dr. Hartley Sargent. Dr. J.D. Allan, Dept. Mines and Natural Resources, Manitoba; Dr. J.E. Thomson, Dept. of Mines, Ontario; Dr. K. DeP. Watson, University of British Columbia; Dr. J.B. Mawdsley, University of Saskatchewan; and Dr. Paul Auger, Laval University.

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS: Canada's merchandise imports during July were valued at \$230,900,000, a drop of nearly \$20 million from the near-record monthly totals of \$250,500,000 for June and May, but above last year's July total of \$225,100,000, according to returns just released by the Bureau of Statistics. The July figure raised the cumulative total for the year to date to \$1,640,300,000 from \$1,495,200,000 for the corresponding seven months of 1948, an increase slightly in excess of 12 per cent.

The decline in the July total from peaks in recent months was concentrated in imports from the United States. Likewise the rise in the month over a year earlier was due to an increase -- of double the overall gain -- in purchases from the United States. Most of the advance in the seven months was also due to a rise in the value of goods from that country, but aggregate purchases in the period were also higher from the United Kingdom, the British West Indies, the Oceania group of Commonwealth countries, and from European countries.

July imports from the United States rose in value of \$160,254,000 compared with \$149,499,000 in July last year, and in the seven months totalled \$1,169,000,000 compared with \$1,034,000,000. Purchases from the United Kingdom in the month amounted to \$29,376,000, almost identical with the value of a year earlier, and in the seven months aggregated \$192,584,000 compared with \$168,508,000. Gain for the two countries in the cumulative period thus totalled slightly over \$159,000,000 as against an overall increase of approximately \$145,000,000.

Total imports from Commonwealth countries, excluding the United Kingdom, declined in July to \$15,200,000 from \$16,200,000 in July last year, after deduction of last year's figure for Newfoundland; but, on the same basis, were higher for the seven months at \$106,600,000 compared with \$104,900,000.

MR. MCPHERSON RE-APPOINTED: Re-appointment of F.M. McPherson to the position of Commissioner on the Board of Transport Commissioners, has been announced by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. Mr. McPherson's term of office as Commissioner expired on September 21 and he has been re-appointed for a further term of ten years.

FARM WAGE RATES LOWER: Average wages for male farm help for Canada as a whole showed a general downward trend in August for the first time since the inception of the current farm wage survey in 1940 by the Bureau of Statistics. With the exception of Prince Edward Island, this downward trend was evident in eastern Canada for both daily and monthly rates. While daily rates in the West continued to rise, the direction of monthly wages was somewhat varied.

With board provided by the employer, the average farm wage-rate per day for all Canada was \$4.35 at August 15 as compared with \$4.40 at the same date in 1948 and \$4.13 in 1947. By provinces, rates ranged from \$3.14 in Prince Edward Island to \$5.51 in Saskatchewan. Without board, the average daily rate decreased to \$5.29 from \$5.44 a year earlier, and compares with \$5.17 in 1947, rates being below 1948 levels in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

RECORD MOTOR VEHICLE ENTRIES: New records were established in July in highway traffic between Canada and the United States. The total number of vehicles to cross the border into Canada -- almost 1,500,000 -- has never been exceeded in any month either before or after the war. Previous records were broken both by the number of American vehicles entering Canada and the number of Canadian vehicles returning from the United States. American entries exceeded the previous peak of July, 1948 by seven per cent and Canadian vehicles returned in 18 per cent greater volume than in August, 1947 when the former high mark was set.

The aggregate number of border crossings in July was 1,495,200, consisting of 1,169,400 foreign entries and 325,800 Canadian vehicles returning. Of the foreign inflow, 453,200 vehicles entered on traveller's vehicle permits, 695,600 were non-permit or local entries and 20,600 were commercial vehicles. The Canadian traffic comprised 61,900 units remaining abroad for more than 24 hours, 248,800 staying for shorter periods and 15,100 commercial vehicles. The density of traffic at the busier ports on the Independence Day holiday can be judged from the fact that the average number of vehicles entering Canada at the single port of Fort Erie, day and night throughout the month, was between six and seven per minute.

ARMoured CORPS MONUMENT: An impressive marble cairn commemorating those who gave their lives in the service of Canadian armoured units in the Second World War was unveiled Thursday, September 29, at Camp Borden, Ont., by General Sir Richard L. McCreery, GCB, KBE, DSO, MC, one of the world's foremost authorities on the use of armoured weapons in war.