



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## SURPLUS OF \$152 MILLION FORECAST

The Federal Government is budgeting for a surplus of \$152,000,000 and expenditures of \$5,018,000,000, during the fiscal year 1957-58, it was indicated in the Budget Speech delivered in the House of Commons March 14 by Finance Minister Walter Harris.

Tax reductions and benefit payment increases announced by the Finance Minister will cost the Federal Treasury an estimated \$148,000,000 in 1957-58, and approximately \$261,000,000 when they have been in effect for a full year.

Reviewing the economic picture in Canada, Mr. Harris said that the gross national product might rise to \$31,250,000,000 from \$29,900,000,000 in 1956, and pointed out that Canadians should save more money to overcome inflation and reduce the need of foreign supplies. He said that although consumer prices may show some further rise as a result of the 1956 boost in wages, freight rates, and material costs, inflationary forces may begin to moderate during the year. There was a significant improvement in real earnings of Canadians during 1956, the Finance Minister indicated, and average farm income this year may reach a record. Prolonged continuation of a foreign trade deficit which reached \$1,400,000 during 1956 could cause problems for Canada, Mr. Harris said.

In the tax field, the main changes were as follows:

Effective July 1, old age pensions for those over 70, assistance payments for those between 65 and 70 and pensions for blind and

disabled persons will be increased to \$46 per month from the present \$40.

Effective July 1, children under 10 years of age will be eligible for Family Allowances payments of \$6 per month and those between 10 and 16 years will be eligible for monthly payments of \$8. In effect this increases by \$1 the amounts formerly paid for children under 6 and between 10 and 12.

Effective July 1, pensions to war veterans, widows, dependent parents and unemployable veterans will be increased by a total of \$19,000,000 in the fiscal year 1957-58 and by \$25,000,000 in a full year.

Starting with income tax returns for the 1957 tax year, individual tax payers will be allowed to claim a \$100 deduction in lieu of submitting receipts for medical expenses, charitable donations, trade union dues and professional membership fees. Those with larger claims will file receipts as at present.

Effective immediately, the 10 per cent special excise tax on soft drinks, chewing gum, chocolate, confectionery and candy is repealed. This tax was also removed from decorated and crystal glassware, pottery and porcelain, fountain pens, ball-point pens, propelled pencils, desk sets, motorcycles and scooters.

Effective immediately, the ten per cent sales tax was taken off a wide range of articles including mayonnaise, salad dressings, cocoa, tea, coffee, and pickles.

(Over)

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Mr. Harris also announced that all provinces except Ontario and Quebec have indicated agreement to enter new tax rental pacts with the Federal Government, and that Canada would seek new trade negotiations with Australia and may seek tariff changes on steel, rubber and other products in world talks next Autumn.

The great majority of the tariff provisions were unchanged, although reductions were announced covering 15 items.

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**MAJOR PROJECT LAUNCHED:** The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, launched in 1956 a major project in Manitoba for the development of what is expected to become the world's second largest nickel mining operation, according to the annual report signed by John F. Thompson, Chairman of the Board, and Henry S. Wingate, President.

The Company is pushing with utmost speed the development of its new Manitoba project, which will include mining and processing operations. Tractor trains have begun to move over the frozen waterways and snow of northern Manitoba on a twenty-four hour a day schedule. Before the spring break-up, 30,000 tons of materials and equipment will have been transported from Thicket Portage, on the Canadian National Railways' Hudson Bay line, to the plant sites at Thompson and Moak Lake, which are 30 and 50 miles north. This centre of operations is located some 400 miles north of Winnipeg and 950 miles northwest of the Company's operations in the Sudbury District of Ontario.

The maximum number of men and machines will be put to work on the Manitoba properties in 1957. Winter tractor-train hauling is costly but the time saved is important to the Company and to nickel users.

A 30 mile branch rail line will be constructed from Sipiweski, on the Canadian National Railways near Thicket Portage, to Thompson, named for the Chairman of the Board of the Company. Completion of the rail line is planned by the end of 1957. Some 4,000 tons of material are being moved by the contractors to several operating points set up along the proposed railroad.

During 1957 construction will begin also on a 22 mile Company-owned rail line between Thompson and Moak Lake. Plant sites have already been cleared, accommodations for construction workers have been set up, temporary shops and storage buildings have been erected, and work has started on roads and foundations for permanent structures.

Also in 1957, the Company will sink a production shaft at the Moak Lake mine to a depth of 2,280 feet and cut stations, and will do development work from the exploration shaft sunk in 1955. At the Thompson mine, two shafts will be sunk, a production shaft to a depth of 1,745 feet and a development shaft to a depth

of 1,535 feet. No surface mining at these properties is in contemplation.

Work is being scheduled with the objective of bringing the Thompson and Moak Lake mines and surface plants into production in 1960. Within twelve months thereafter, they should be operating at planned capacity. Thus almost fifteen years of effort will have been required from the time the exploration activities began in the Mystery-Moak Lakes area of northern Manitoba until the Company is able to bring the properties into production.

The joint announcement of December 5, 1956 by Premier Douglas Campbell of Manitoba and the Company disclosed that the development will involve an initial expenditure estimated at \$175,000,000. As presently projected, our initial capital investment in the Province of Manitoba, exclusive of expenses already incurred for exploration and preproduction items, will approximate \$115,000,000. This will include the cost of opening and developing the two new mines, Thompson and Moak Lake, constructing a concentrator, smelter, refinery and transportation facilities, as well as providing certain community installations in the town of Thompson, which is to be built to accommodate an initial population of 8,000.

The Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board will build a power plant at Grand Rapid on the Nelson River at an estimated cost of thirty-two to thirty-eight million dollars. It will have generating capacity to satisfy the power needs of the Company's new facilities as well as those of other industries that may develop in the area. The Company is assisting the Hydro in financing the power development by means of a twenty million dollar loan. During the construction period, the loan will bear interest at 2 per cent and thereafter will be converted into debentures repayable in four equal installments over a period of 20 years, the first three of which will bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent and the last at 4.5 per cent.

Subject to Parliamentary approval at Ottawa, the Canadian National Railways will spend for the new branch line from Sipiweski to Thompson approximately \$5,000,000, including reimbursement of International Nickel for major construction in 1957. The cost of constructing dwelling units at the Thompson townsite for individual ownership will amount to approximately \$20,000,000, to be financed in the main by recognized lending institutions.

Discovery of the deposits in the Mystery-Moak Lakes area involved exploration expenditures by the Company in northern Manitoba alone of \$10,000,000 over a period of ten years. Much of the area covered had been prospected by others. The more important deposits offered no visible clues, but were first located by airborne geophysical instruments and later confirmed by surface geophysical methods. Many of these techniques were developed by the Company.

## PLIGHT OF THE CARIBOU

What lies behind the crisis of the north-land's vanishing caribou? To try to find out, mobile teams of wildlife officers are going into the barrens to live with the herds.

The Canadian Wildlife Service of the Northern Affairs and National Resources Department has announced plans for the most intensive survey ever made to get to the root of what lies behind the alarming decline in the North's most essential game animal, and one of its few renewable resources. To carry out the study, two-man teams will spell one another in keeping a large herd of caribou under continuous observation for a period of 18 months. As the herds move, mammalogists will move with them.

Stressing the thoroughgoing nature of the survey W.W. Mair, Chief of the Canadian Wildlife Service, said, "We shall study the life-cycle of the caribou, particularly the effects of spring weather on calving, and the rut in the autumn. All aspects of caribou mortality will be checked--death by disease, predators, weather and extent of kill by native hunters. Animal behaviour and range studies may give some clues to the changes in migration patterns. The present study will be the first to keep a herd under year-round observation."

Co-operating with the Canadian Wildlife Service are the Game Departments of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Alberta, the Administration of the Northwest Territories, the Indian Affairs Branch of Citizenship and Immigration, and the R.C.M.P.

To track down and follow the herds, teams will travel thousands of miles over some of Canada's most difficult sub-Arctic terrain. They will move by almost every type of transport feasible in the North, primitive and modern--ski and pontoon equipped aircraft, helicopter, dog team and canoe. Field camps will be set up and contact will be maintained by radio and aircraft. Jumping off point is the tiny settlement of Stony Rapids near the east end of Lake Athabasca in far northern Saskatchewan. Stony Rapids lies close to the wintering grounds. Here, in early spring, the animals gather for the long trek north. The survey will get underway early in April. Heading the field project is mammalogist J.P. Kelsall of the Canadian Wildlife Service, assisted by mammalogist A.G. Loughrey and

others still to be assigned by Federal and Provincial agencies. Teams will follow the caribou in a series of leap-frog movements designed to maintain contact in all weather. Periodic counts will be made from the air.

Means of transport will not be the only meeting ground for primitive and modern in the project. One purpose is to ear-mark a proportion of animals as a guide to migration patterns. To do this a modified tagging technique will be tried, adapted from methods used by South American jungle tribes, who for centuries have hunted game with poisoned darts. Air guns or other devices practical in low temperatures will shoot a narcotic-dipped dart into the rump of the caribou, rendering it unconscious. Animals are expected to remain "out" for about an hour giving time to examine thoroughly and check for disease and parasites. A metal identification tag will be attached to the ear. The animal will then be released, with no after effects from its experience.

Throughout the summer the herd may lead the men across the barrens as far north as Thelon Game Sanctuary and the Back River, near the Arctic Circle. As cold weather returns the herds drift south to winter feeding grounds below treeline.

Concern for the plight of the caribou was intensified after the Second World War when the tempo of economic development in the western sub-Arctic greatly increased. A 1949 survey showed about 670,000 animals between Hudson Bay and the Mackenzie Valley; a re-survey in 1955 revealed a drop to about 277,000 caribou. Factors in the rapid decline may have been a low birth-rate in the years following 1950, late winter blizzards that caused severe loss among new born calves, attack by wolves and wasteful hunting. In some areas it has been established that human utilization exceeds the caribou's rate of increase. A game conservation programme to deal with this difficult aspect of the problem is already in operation in the North. Biologists stress, however, that before final solutions can be found to the mystery of the diminished herds still more knowledge is urgently needed. The first year-round study of the herds' life-cycle may provide the answer.

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**VENEZUELAN VENTURE.** Four specially fitted aircraft and 30-odd resources experts from Toronto and Oshawa are currently working in Venezuela in co-operation with its Government and various exploration companies to develop the South American country's rich oil and hydro-electric power potential.

These aircraft and experts are working on more than half-a-dozen separate survey jobs in Venezuela. The jobs cover an area of 25,000

square miles all over Venezuela and are worth over half-a-million dollars. They include magnetometer searches for oil, airborne profile recorder work, topographic mapping, aerial photography and general engineering.

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**AUTOMOBILES.** About 58 per cent of Canadian households had automobiles in 1956 versus 56 per cent in the preceding year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports.

**TROPHY WINNERS:** Two Canadian pilots are among the nine British aircrew who have been awarded the Johnston Memorial Trophy for taking part in the British Government's Antarctic Expedition in 1955-56. The award, given by the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators of London, England, is the British equivalent of the McKee Trophy, Canada's premier aviation award.

One of the winners, James N.H. Greenshields, of Oshawa, chief check pilot of Kenting Aviation Limited, and The Photographic Survey Corporation, of Toronto, captained one of two Canadian Canso amphibians, which last year started a 60,000 square mile aerial survey of the Grahamland Peninsula for the United Kingdom. The other Canadian honoured is his co-captain in the Antarctic last year, Lew Terry, of Toronto. The Antarctic aerial survey is continuing this season with different aircrews and the Cansos engaged are due to start the long return to their Oshawa Airport base soon.

The Johnston Trophy is awarded "for the most outstanding feat of performance of aerial navigation, for the development of principles of air navigation, or for flights involving the development of the technology of navigation by a person or persons engaged in acivilian capacity." The trophy was subscribed for by pilots and navigators in memory of S/L E.L. Johnston, O.B.E., A.F.C., co-founder of GAPAN.

The Duke of Edinburgh will personally present the trophy at the annual banquet of GAPAN in London, England, on April 3.

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**ALBERTA PROGRESS:** Expansion in Alberta during 1956 is emphasized by production figures released by the Provincial Bureau of Statistics.

Value of mineral production in the Province reached \$408.9 million, some 25 per cent higher than 1955. Of the \$82.9 million increase, crude petroleum contributed \$78.6 million. Estimated production of crude petroleum is 144.3 million barrels as compared with 133 million barrels in 1955 and 87.7 million in 1954. Natural gas production rose to 150 million m.c.f. from 133 million m.c.f. Drilling activity continued at a rapid pace. It is estimated that total footage drilled to the end of 1956 will approach 10,000,000 feet.

Coal production remained close to the 1955 level. An estimated 4,361,274 tons valued at \$23,513,617 was produced compared with 4,455,279 tons valued at \$23,559,584, in 1955. Value of cement production increased from \$7,026,722 to \$9,951,000. Other figures show salt production up 12 per cent, sulphur up 14 per cent and clay up nine per cent in value.

Gross value of manufacturing is estimated at \$719.6 million, 12 per cent above the 1955 figure of \$641.3 million. This is largely attributed to substantial increases in the processing of foods and beverages, up \$24.2 million; petroleum products, up \$16.1 million,

and iron and steel products up \$13.1 million.

Activity in the slaughtering and meat packing industry reached record proportions with gross sales to the end of November totalling \$129.3 million, and \$11.4 million increase over 1955. An estimated 361.6 million pounds of meat valued at \$89 million were processed as compared with 332.1 million pounds valued at \$83.6 million a year ago. Exports of meat rose by 11 per cent in quantity and nine per cent in value.

Value of flour production was up three per cent from \$24.9 million in 1955 to \$26.1 million in 1956. Value of production of creamery butter and factory cheese dropped by four per cent and seven per cent respectively.

Wholesale trade to the end of January surpassed last year's total by 15 per cent. Retail trade is expected to pass the \$1,150 million mark. Bank clearings amounted to \$6,968,3 million as compared with \$5,466.5 million one year ago. Bank debits rose by 28 per cent, surpassing \$11 billion for the first time.

The gross production value of agriculture is estimated at \$649.6 million, an increase of \$46.9 over 1955. Value of field crop production totalled \$446.2 million.

New motor vehicle sales jumped from 34,146 in 1955 to 39,515 in 1956. Value increased from \$92,221,000 to \$118,356,000. Electric power consumption increased by 17.4 per cent to 1,819 million K.W.H.

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**SEAWAY COSTS:** Speaking last week in Montreal, Transport Minister George C. Marler pointed out that the capital budget of the Seaway Authority which he had recently tabled in Parliament "provides for expenditures of nearly \$285,000,000 for the works it is to carry out, while the works in the international Rapids section being undertaken by the United States are likely to cost about \$125,000,000, bringing the total for the navigation works to more than \$400,000,000". This amount, together with the expected \$500,000,000 cost for the power project in the International Rapids section, would, he said, bring the grand total for the Seaway and Power Project to around \$1,000,000,000.

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**SCIENTIFIC ATTACHÉ:** The National Research Council of Canada has announced the appointment of Mr. Harry Williamson, formerly Assistant to the Director of NRC's Division of Applied Biology, as Scientific Liaison Officer for the National Research Council in Washington, D.C. In co-operation with the Department of External Affairs, he will act as Scientific Attaché at the Embassy.

Mr. Williamson replaces Dr. J.D. Babbitt, who was transferred to Ottawa to serve as Assistant Director (Information Services) in NRC's Division of Administration.

**NAVAL CHANGES:** Three senior officers of the Royal Canadian Navy will take up new appointments in mid-summer, and a fourth will proceed on retirement leave.

Rear-Admiral R.E.S. Bidwell, 56, of Lennoxville, P.Q., Brockville, Ont., and Halifax, will begin retirement leave on September 20, after 42 years of service with the Royal Canadian Navy. He has been the Flag Officer Atlantic Coast since November 1951, and has held the additional appointment of Commander Canadian Atlantic Sub-Area in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since April, 1952.

Succeeding Rear-Admiral Bidwell in these appointments will be Rear-Admiral H.F. Pullen, 52, of Oakville, Ont., and Victoria, the present Flag Officer Pacific Coast.

Rear-Admiral H.S. Rayner, 46, of St. Catharines, Ont., and Ottawa, now Chief of Naval Personnel and member of the Naval Board at Naval Headquarters, Ottawa, will become Flag Officer Pacific Coast on August 17.

He will be succeeded as Chief of Naval Personnel and member of the Naval Board by Commodore K.L. Dyer, 41, of Grand Pré, N.S., and Ottawa, who will be promoted to the rank of rear-admiral when he takes up this appointment on July 30.

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**TO CONFER IN TORONTO:** More than 1,500 experts in the earth sciences will gather at Toronto, September 3-14, 1957 to hold the XIth General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). Their main topic will be the International Geophysical Year (IGY), to be launched previously in July. Delegates will come from 50 countries in all parts of the world to review the IGY opening and lay final plans for the vast joint enterprise.

The International Geophysical Year, an 18-month concerted effort by more than 50 nations and 5,000 scientists, is expected to cost well over \$300 million. From July 1957 to January 1959, experts in 14 fields of research will investigate the earth from pole to pole, from ocean floor to outer space. All over the world simultaneous measurements will be taken on such phenomena as the aurora, cosmic rays, meteors, the upper atmosphere, glaciers, oceans, gravity, magnetism, earth tremors, solar flares and sunspots.

The IGY will climax the efforts of many centuries to solve mysteries of the sun and the earth, to form a unified picture of our physical environment. In human affairs it is heralded as a new promise of good will among nations.

Each member country of the IGY is making a specific contribution. Largest programmes are those of the United States, Britain and the Commonwealth, and Soviet Russia. Several countries will employ rockets to probe the upper atmosphere. Twelve nations will explore and investigate the Antarctic. Both the United States and Russia are planning to launch man-

made satellites which will encircle the earth in outer space.

Canadian scientists are playing a creditable role in the IGY, with programmes operating in nearly all departments, omitting only the rocketry and satellite studies.

The XIth General Assembly of the IUGG at Toronto will bring together its seven international associations, whose interests cover nearly all aspects of the IGY. The two weeks of the Assembly will feature lectures and papers by some of the world's outstanding scientists.

Typical subjects to be discussed are: the age of the earth (now estimated at 4.5 thousand million years); polar wandering (different locations of the tropical regions in past ages); the warming cycle (whether the earth's climate is getting warmer); measuring distances between continents by radar; the origin of cosmic rays and their immense energies; sun spots and solar flares; jet streams in the atmosphere; the true shape of the earth; magnetic storms and radio communications; how rockets explore the upper atmosphere; the northern lights; the record of the glaciers; the cause of airglow; the earth's interior; deep ocean currents; the man-made moons (artificial satellites); and methods of geophysical prospecting.

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**UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT:** Enrolment of full-time university-grade students in Canadian universities and colleges was estimated at 78,100 at December 1, 1956, some 9.1 per cent above the previous year's estimated total of 71,600, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. While enrolment has fluctuated over the years the current 1956-57 figure is approaching 1947-48's peak of 83,150, and is well above 1952-53's post-war low of 63,041. The latest figure, however, is more than double that of the pre-war years.

All main geographical areas shared in the increased enrolment. Total enrolment rose to 25,700 in Quebec from 23,600 in the 1955-56 session, to 23,800 in Ontario from 22,500, to 20,200 in the Western Provinces from 17,800, and to 8,400 in the Atlantic Provinces from 7,700.

Enrolment in education showed a substantial 43.4 per cent increase over the previous session, due in part to the University of British Columbia entering the teacher-training field in that Province, formerly taught by the Province's normal schools. Enrolment increased 22.3 per cent in secretarial science, 11.6 per cent in commerce, 11.5 per cent in engineering and applied science, and 9.2 per cent in arts and science. Decreases were reported in fine and applied arts, physical and health education, library science, dentistry, nursing, occupational and physiotherapy, music and social service. For the fourth consecutive year, enrolment declined in pharmacy and for the third straight year in veterinary science.

**MAJOR PROJECT LAUNCHED:** (Continued from P. 2)

The average nickel content of the Moak Lake and Thompson ores thus far discovered compares favourably with the average of the Sudbury ores, though the copper content is so small as to be almost a metallurgical disadvantage. The gold, silver and platinum metals content, though lower than that of Sudbury, nevertheless has value.

The arrangements between the Province and International Nickel assure the Company of long-term rights in the mining properties. The area covered is 80 miles long and up to 10 miles wide.

The Manitoba project will represent the largest single capital investment in the entire Province. It signalizes the opening of a new economic frontier that should bring great benefits both to Manitoba and to Canada. For International Nickel, it assures further substantial life and growth as a producer of nickel.

As presently planned, completion of the Manitoba project together with increases at Sudbury will give the Company a total nickel production capacity of 385,000,000 pounds per year. However, this does not rule out the possibility that further ore development in Manitoba or elsewhere may permit the initiating of additional expansion even before the present project reaches production. Construction and operation of the Manitoba mines will be under the direction of the Company's newly created Manitoba Division, with headquarters in Winnipeg.

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**TOTAL FARM AREA:** Area of Canada's farms was only slightly smaller in 1956 than in 1951 but the number of farms fell almost 8 per cent in the same five-year period, according to a special compilation of final figures of the 1956 Census of Agriculture on number and area of farms released recently by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Farm area increases in the three Prairie Provinces almost outweighed decreases in the other provinces, but farm numbers declined in all provinces.

Canada's total farm area in June last was 173,923,691 acres as compared with 174,046,654 in 1951 and 173,566,063 reported in the 1941 Census. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan had by far the largest farm area with a 1956 total of 62,793,979 acres, 1.8 per cent larger than 1951's 61,663,195 acres. In Alberta the farm area rose 3.4 per cent to 45,970,395 acres from 44,459,632, and in Manitoba 1.1 per cent to 17,931,817 acres from 17,730,393. Combined farm area for the three provinces showed a five-year increase of 2.3 per cent to 126,696,191 acres from 123,853,220.

Ontario's farm area showed a five-year decline of 4.8 per cent to 19,879,646 acres

from 20,880,054, and Quebec's dropped 5.2 per cent to 15,910,128 acres from 16,786,405. In British Columbia the farm area declined to 4,538,881 acres from 4,702,274 in 1951, in New Brunswick to 2,981,449 acres from 3,470,234, in Nova Scotia to 2,775,642 from 3,173,691, in Prince Edward Island to 1,055,463 from 1,095,304, and in Newfoundland to 71,814 acres from 85,040. In the Yukon and Northwest Territories the area increased more than 10-fold to 4,477 acres from 432.

The number of farms recorded in last year's Census was 575,015 for Canada as a whole, a numerical decrease of 48,076 from the 1951 Census count of 623,091. Among the provinces, Ontario had the largest number of farms in 1956 at 140,602 versus 149,920 in 1951, Quebec next with 122,517 (134,336 in 1951), Saskatchewan 103,391 (112,018), Alberta 79,424 (84,315), British Columbia 24,748 (26,406), New Brunswick 22,116 (26,431), Nova Scotia 21,075 (23,515), Prince Edward Island 9,432 (10,137), and Newfoundland 2,387 (3,626).

As a result of the general decline in the number of farms and the fact that there was little change in the total farm area, the average area per farm for all Canada increased from 279 acres in 1951 to 302 acres in 1956.

For Census purposes a farm is defined as a holding on which agricultural operations are carried out and which is: (1) three acres or more in size, or (2) from one to three acres in size, and with the agricultural production in 1955 valued at \$250 or more.

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**POSTED TO NEW YORK:** Hon. Jean Lesage, Canada's Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, has announced the transfer to New York of Lance Connery, 39, as manager of the Canadian Government Travel Bureau's office there. Mr. Connery, who for eight years has been chief of the Bureau's publicity division, succeeds Alan Field, recently named Director of the Bureau at Ottawa.

A former newspaperman and Royal Canadian Air Force officer, Mr. Connery saw service overseas with the RCAF in both the European and Middle East theatres of war, and flew 36 operational missions as a navigator on heavy bombers against European targets. He was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

He then joined the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ottawa, as superintendent of publicity, serving through the peak period of the postwar rehabilitation programme. He was appointed publicity chief of the Canadian Government Travel Bureau at Ottawa in December 1948. In the past four years his office won two major United States travel writers' awards for the Bureau.