

Slump In Recruiting Reported By Ottawa

By DAVE McINTOSH
OTTAWA (CP) — Recruiting for the armed force has dropped off alarmingly since the publication of the government's white paper on defence in March, informed sources said Tuesday.

Figures for April recruiting will not be officially available until later this month but informants said there were extremely few applications in comparison with the 696 persons recruited in March.

Sources said the situation already has the defence department so worried that it prompted Defence Minister Healy to appeal for recruits in a Commons speech Friday.

Main reason for the big drop-off is the government's announcement that it is compulsorily retiring some 1,000 servicemen from jobs that will become superfluous with integration of the armed forces' command structure.

Navy recruiting has already fallen off after cancellation of

the frigate program in November.

Over-all forces recruiting in March was down slightly from the 754 persons who signed on in February and the 766 who enlisted in March, 1963. Total strength at the end of March was 120,781.

Meanwhile, discontent is reported increasing in the armed forces over the amount of cash benefits the government will pay to those being compulsorily retired before normal retirement age.

Another reason for this discontent is that none of the 10,000 who will be let out, apart from 500 RCAF aircrew officers, has yet been notified.

As a result, many men whose jobs won't be abolished are leaving the services to beat the rush.

The Canadian plan is being compared unfavorably with the British "Golden Bowler" scheme of 1957-1963 and with the French plan for retiring surplus officers.

The British Golden Bowler

Department Store Sales Increase

OTTAWA (CP) — Department store sales in Canada rose 9.4 per cent in March to \$129,602,000 from \$114,717,000 in the same month last year, the bureau of statistics said today.

This brought sales in the first three months of the year to \$369,291,000, a gain of 12.6 per cent compared with \$319,338,000 a year previous.

In March sales were up 18.7 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and 6.7 per cent in Quebec. In the three months sales rose 18.4 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and 9.2 per cent in Quebec.



FRENCH BIOCHEMIST'S FAMILY ARRIVES

Gaston Naessens, a French biochemist who claims he has a cure for leukemia, sits with his family after their arrival in Montreal Monday night. Seated with him are

Mrs. Naessens (centre), Monique 14, and Michel, 12. Mr. Naessens, who arrived in Montreal two weeks ago, has been given permission by fe-

deral and provincial authorities to use his serum "analbist" on four-year-old Rene Gagnemier of Montreal. (CP Wirephoto)

The cost will be shared equally by the two governments.

The study is expected to lead to a development plan for the area.

Implement Sales Show Increase

OTTAWA (CP) — Sales at farm implements and equipment at the wholesale level increased 24.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1964 to \$34,837,096 from \$27,968,000 a year previous, the bureau of statistics said Tuesday.

First-quarter sales were down 1 per cent in Quebec from a year previous but rose 17.9 per

cent in the Atlantic provinces, 19.8 per cent in Ontario, 14.4 per cent in Manitoba, 15.2 per cent in Saskatchewan, 15.1 per cent in Alberta and 36.7 per cent in British Columbia.

Sauve's Riding To Benefit Under ARDA Project

OTTAWA (CP) — Forestry Minister Sauve's own riding of

lies-de-la-Madeleine will be among the prime beneficiaries of a \$750,000 survey project announced Tuesday under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development program (ARDA).

Mr. Sauve, federal minister responsible for ARDA, and Quebec Agriculture Minister Alceide Courcy announced jointly approval of a study of natural resources and social and economic conditions in the lower St. Lawrence, Gaspé and lies-de-la-Madeleine region.

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