

## Air Marshal Curtis for Avro Canada

IT has been announced that Air Marshal W. A. Curtis, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.C. and bar, E.D., LL.D., has been elected vicechairman of Avro Canada, Ltd. Speaking of the appointment, Sir Roy Dobson (chairman) said that it was most appropriate that the new director, after an outstanding military career, should be resuming business with Avro Canada because, if anyone could be said to have "fathered" the CF-100, which the company was now producing, it was the air marshal.

Born in 1893, Air Marshal Curtis joined the Canadian Army in 1915, learned to fly at his own expense, and in 1916 transferred to the R.N.A.S., in which he had a distinguished career as a fighter pilot, winning the D.S.C. and Bar. He was invalided home in 1918, and thereafter served for eight years in the Army whilst retaining a place in the Canadian Air Force Reserve. Thus by this time he had already worn the uniforms of all three Services.

Subsequently he became a founder of the Toronto Flying Club, and helped to organize No. 10 Auxiliary Squadron, R.C.A.F., later becoming its CO. In 1938 he was promoted to wing commander in charge of the auxiliary squadrons at Toronto, Hamilton and London, and in 1939 was assigned to Regular duty. From November, 1941, to January, 1944, he served abroad as the Deputy C-in-C. of the R.C.A.F. overseas, and later was Air Member for Air Staff and for Air Plans at R.C.A.F. Headquarters in Ottawa, before succeeding Air Marshal Robert Leckie as C.A.S. in 1947. He retired on January 31st, 1953, having seen the R.C.A.F. through a critical period of planning and expansion during the cold war.