

Regional Economic Commissions

There are three Regional Economic Commissions: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)¹.

In December 1955, nine European countries were added to the membership of the ECE to bring the total number of members to 27; Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Romania and Spain joined the Commission immediately after their admission to the United Nations. Italy, which was admitted to the United Nations at the same time, had already become a member of the ECE about a year before. These countries had previously been associated with the work of the Commission, but through accession to United Nations membership acquired full voting rights.

Canada, while not a member of the ECE, has continued throughout the period under review to be represented from time to time by an observer at meetings of some of the committees and to follow with interest the various activities of the ECE including the tenth annual session of the Commission held in March 1955. Considerable progress has been achieved in various studies and projects directed toward economic co-operation among the European countries. Commercial activity increased, and useful discussions designed to lead to an enlargement of trade among countries in all parts of Europe took place under the aegis of the ECE.

The work of ECLA is being increasingly co-ordinated with that of other international bodies in the region. This co-operation has taken the form of consultations, the exchange of material, the loan of specialists for specific joint projects and the establishment of joint working parties. The resources of the Commission have been directed to the most immediate problems of the region, including economic development and programming, the training of economists, studies of industries, energy, economic integration, and international trade among the Latin American countries.

The ECAFE has now been in operation for over eight years. Though it is primarily concerned with economic problems, it also deals to some extent with social questions. The Permanent Secretariat of this Regional Economic Commission has its headquarters in Bangkok and undertakes to gather and distribute statistical and factual data related to the economic development of the area. The ECAFE's annual meetings provide an opportunity for member countries to exchange views on mutual problems and the Secretariat prepares a comprehensive economic survey of Asia and the Far East following each annual meeting. The eleventh session of the Commission was held in Tokyo from March 28 to April 7, 1955. While Canada is not a member of ECAFE, Canadian observers have attended most of the annual sessions, including the one which met in Tokyo in 1955, as well as a number of special technical meetings.

World Pulp and Paper Resources and Prospects

In 1954 the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), published a comprehensive report under the title *World Pulp and Paper Resources and Prospects*. The report reviewed past trends in paper consumption and probable future requirements in each region and examined the extent to which expansion currently under way or contemplated might

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, pp. 64-65.