

DELEGATION TO GATT

The Canadian Delegation to the thirteenth GATT session which opened in Geneva on October 16, is headed by Mr. M. Schwarzmann, Director of the International Trade Relations Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce and comprises officials of the Departments of Trade and Commerce, Finance, External Affairs, National Revenue and Agriculture. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Gordon Churchill, attended the first days of the session, when, in accordance with a practice followed in recent years, ministers meet informally to discuss trade problems.

The thirteenth GATT session is one of the regular sessions of contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which are held annually to administer the agreement and to seek solutions to particular trade difficulties between member countries.

The meeting of ministers provides an opportunity for an exchange of views on major problems in the field of international trade. It is likely that the ministers have discussed problems of trade in agriculture and other primary commodities in the light of a report prepared by a group of experts appointed at the Twelfth GATT session. The contracting parties were also expected to give further consideration to the Treaty for the establishment of a European Economic Community, which came into force on January 1 of this year and to receive a report on the state of negotiations for the establishment of a European free Trade area.

* * * *

HEALTH INSURANCE

The Minister of National Health and Welfare announced on October 16 another important step towards the achievement of a Canada-wide system of hospital insurance. In signing an Agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia, Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, in Halifax for the occasion, indicated that the ceremony "opens the way to a new era in health care for every resident of the province. Beginning next January 1, Nova Scotians will join with millions of other Canadians in having their basic hospital needs assured."

Referring to Nova Scotia's celebration of two hundred years of representative government, Mr. Monteith commented, "It is surely appropriate that this bicentennial should be marked by the establishment of another bulwark to the good society which is the aim of free men everywhere."

The Agreement which was signed by Mr. Monteith and Mr. Richard A. Donahoe, Minister of Public Health for Nova Scotia, is the seventh entered into by the Federal Government under the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act. The first was concluded in March of this

year with Ontario, under which the province will inaugurate a hospital insurance plan commencing January 1, 1959. Subsequently, Agreements were signed with British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Newfoundland. The hospital insurance programmes in these provinces have been in operation since July 1, 1958.

* * * *

EMINENT VISITORS

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Walter Nash, P.C., paid a brief visit to Ottawa recently. He was met at the airport by Mr. G.C. Green who was representing the Prime Minister. Mr. Nash called on Mr. Diefenbaker while he was here.

Mrs. Golda Meir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and the only woman foreign minister in the world, arrived on October 15, on a two day visit. She called on the Prime Minister and met senior officials of the Department of External Affairs. Mrs. Meir addressed a Canadian-Jewish Conference and held a Press Conference during her visit.

* * * *

IN FIVE LANGUAGES

The informative booklet "Working and Living Conditions in Canada", published by the Department of Labour in conjunction with the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, provides basic information on conditions in Canada for people who are thinking of emigrating to this country.

The booklet deals with employment, earnings, working conditions, educational and training facilities, living conditions and social welfare services. It is published in German, Dutch and Danish, as well as in English and French.

* * * *

CLASSES IN UKRAINIAN

Two courses in Ukrainian language and grammar will be offered as optional subjects to Alberta senior high school students effective September 1959, according to an announcement by the Department of Education.

The subjects will be offered as options, on the same basis as Latin, French and German. Ukrainian 20 will be offered in Grade eleven and Ukrainian 30 in Grade twelve. Departmental examinations in the latter will be conducted in June, 1960.

The School Book branch of the Department of Education will stock suitable texts and reference books prior to March 1959. A survey will be taken later this year throughout the secondary school system to estimate enrolment and determine the number of teachers competent to offer instruction in Ukrainian.