

Canadian Government Departments. Special attention was paid to Australian restrictions on imports from Canada and other non-sterling countries which, in some cases, have been the subject of representations addressed to the appropriate Australian authorities.

The office was used as a channel of communication between the Canadian and Australian Governments on matters relating to the prosecution of the war and on other questions of mutual interest. Enquiries from Canadian and Australian sources were dealt with. Effective co-operation with the Canadian Government Trade Commissioners in Sydney and Melbourne was established and maintained. Various forms of assistance were rendered to Canadian visitors.

#### ***Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, Wellington***

The intention of the Canadian Government to appoint a High Commissioner to the Dominion of New Zealand was announced by the Prime Minister of Canada on September 11, 1939. Dr. W. A. Riddell, Counsellor of the Canadian Legation at Washington, was appointed to this post by Order in Council, taking effect on February 1, 1940. The High Commissioner arrived in Auckland, New Zealand, on March 3rd.

Much of the activity of the High Commissioner's Office was connected with the furthering of Canadian interests affected by the war-time trade restrictions in force in New Zealand. Problems arising from the total exclusion of some Canadian manufactures, and difficulties over licences to admit other items of Canadian merchandise, required frequent consultation with New Zealand officials. In addition, negotiations were carried on with a view to securing the release of certain New Zealand products for Canadian markets. The Canadian-New Zealand Trade Agreement, which was to have expired on October 31st, was extended for a further period of one year.

Problems arising from the war added considerably to the duties of the High Commissioner and his staff. Among these were the sinking of the SS. *Niagara* and the necessity of arranging for the care of Canadian survivors; inquiries from Canada with regard to the application of the Exchange Control regulations and the National Service Emergency regulations; and the development of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, with particular reference to New Zealand's co-operation therein.

Reports were forwarded to Ottawa from time to time on New Zealand's war effort, including the organization of the War Council, the War Cabinet, the Economic Conference and War Emergency Legislation regarding man power, finance, and the rehabilitation of returned soldiers. Considerable time also was devoted to the study of, and reporting on, domestic aspects of New Zealand's economic, financial and social structure.

#### ***Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, Pretoria***

The High Commissioner for Canada arrived at Cape Town on May 17, 1940, and established his office in Pretoria.

Following the organization of the office close contact was established with the various governmental departments, particularly those of External Affairs, Agriculture, Finance and Commerce. Reports were forwarded to Ottawa on many subjects of public interest, particularly those relating to the political, economic and military activities of the Union. In addition a close relationship was established with the South African Department of Public Information, and arrangements for an exchange of news reports and photographs between the South African Department and the Director of Public Information in Ottawa were instituted.