

activity of the Office was that relating to the formulation and discussion with the appropriate United Kingdom authorities of policy related to the Canadian Armed Forces in the United Kingdom. The Office also furnished numerous detailed reports to the Department of External Affairs on various aspects of war-time policy and legislation in the United Kingdom.

The establishment of representation in London by many branches of the Canadian Government concerned with the war effort, such as the National Research Council, involved the collaboration of the Office in the setting up of the necessary administrative organization. At the outset the Office of the National Research Council was accommodated at Canada House but is now housed in alternative war-time premises at 3, St. James's Square.

During the course of the year there have been a number of visits by members of the Canadian Government to London, which have made possible a series of intimate exchanges of views between Ministers of the Canadian and United Kingdom Governments on different questions connected with the conduct of the war. The Prime Minister during his visit to the United Kingdom in August attended meetings of the War Cabinet and held important consultations with Mr. Churchill and other members of the United Kingdom Government. The following members of the Canadian Government visited the United Kingdom:— the Hon. J. L. Ralston, Minister of National Defence, the Hon. C. G. Power, Minister of National Defence for Air, the Hon. Angus Macdonald, Minister of National Defence for Naval Service, and the Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Minister of Pensions and National Health. In addition to the visits of members of the Government there were two delegations of Members of Parliament, including a group under the leadership of the Hon. R. B. Hanson, Leader of the Opposition. Another visiting group was composed of prominent newspaper editors and proprietors; also a number of distinguished Canadian public men visited the United Kingdom to see for themselves something of the British war effort. A large number of officials have visited the United Kingdom in connection with Canada's war production and arrangements have been made for these visitors to get into touch with appropriate Government Departments and individuals.

An expanding phase of the work of the Office was that related to prisoners of war and an increasing number of enquiries continue to be received. Mr. G. Ignatieff represented the Office on the Inter-Governmental Committee known as the Imperial Prisoners of War Committee, which was set up to secure co-ordination between the Governments of the Commonwealth on Prisoners of War questions.

The past year was one of exceptional activity in matters connected with the Navy. Arrangements for the launching of the two new destroyers were made through this Office, and questions connected with priority for orders placed in Canadian shipyards by the Admiralty have been dealt with. Many Canadian shipping problems required attention, involving close relations with the Ministry of War Transport. In view of the necessity for allocating transportation for Canadians and others desiring to proceed to Canada by sea, it was found advisable to set up a Passage Priority Committee, consisting of representatives of the High Commissioner's Office, Canadian Military Headquarters, the Department of Immigration and the Department of Munitions and Supply. The work of the Committee greatly eased the problem of Canadian civilians in the United Kingdom awaiting return passages to Canada, and as a result, the difficulties which existed at the beginning of the year, particularly in relation to Canadian women and children wishing to return home, have now, for the most part, been solved.

The Committee's work also involved co-operation with the United Kingdom Passport authorities in securing the grant of exit permits to Canadians who have been resident for a considerable period. This Committee met weekly and dealt with over 860 applications for passages through the year.