

TRADE MISSION TO CHINA

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, will lead an economic mission to China on June 25 at the invitation of the Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Pai Hsiang-Kuo. The Canadian party will return on July 4.

Mr. Pepin will be accompanied by some ten representatives of major Canadian trade and economic associations and a group of senior officials from federal departments concerned with economic relations between Canada and China. The business members will represent important sectors of Canadian economic activity, including agriculture, forestry, mining, manufacturing, banking, export and import interests.

The mission will spend four days in Peking, meeting with economic ministries and with the seven state trading corporations that conduct all China's international trade.

Mr. Pepin said that Canadian businessmen have shown great interest in China since that country's diplomatic recognition by Canada. "I am confident this mission will provide us with a better understanding of opportunities for broadening economic relations with China and will lead to increased trade between our two countries," he said.

AGRICULTURAL IMPORT INTERCEPTIONS

Tourists and Canadians returning from abroad are leaving large numbers of prohibited plants, meats and other agricultural items behind them following customs inspection on their arrival in Canada.

To protect Canada's important agricultural industry from plant and animal diseases and pests being brought into the country on imported materials, tight restrictions govern the entry of meats, meat and animal products, plants, and plant products (cuttings, bulbs, fruit, etc.) from overseas. A plant with soil clinging to its roots can carry any of the many destructive species of nematode, and a small piece of sausage can carry the organism which causes foot-and-mouth disease. (Except for an outbreak in 1952, which was speedily stamped out, Canada has been free of this costly disease.)

The increase in air traffic in just a year is partly reflected in the latest report (1969-70) of the Department of Agriculture's pest identification laboratory, when over 1,000 destructive pests were intercepted at ports of entry. The report notes that one out of three came from air passengers' baggage. Even in the heavy travel year of Expo 67, the ratio was one in six and in 1968-69 it was one in 20.

SPEEDIER INSPECTION

Faced with the prospect of increases in both the frequency of flight arrivals and the size of aircraft, experts of the four federal agencies involved with inspection work at ports of entry - Agriculture,

Customs, Health and Immigration - began working on ways and means of speeding up passenger-handling at Canada's international airports. The result of their work was the primary inspection-line system that went into operation last year at Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver air terminals. A similar system is being introduced at Halifax, Gander and Winnipeg. Customs officers manning these terminals are given special training to increase their effectiveness in carrying out inspection work for the other departments.

For many inbound passengers, the integrated scheme means a one-stop inspection and elimination of delays for agriculture, immigration and health checks. But others, depending on circumstances, may be sent for secondary and more intensive inspection and every piece of baggage may be searched.

A further safeguard is provided by roving customs officers who may subject certain passengers to a second inspection after they have claimed their baggage.

Statistics show that the speed-up in passenger-handling hasn't been achieved at the cost of reduced thoroughness in inspection.

Last year, passengers arriving at Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver from overseas forfeited more than 17,000 pounds of prohibited and potentially hazardous meat and animal products, and hay and straw packing. The lengthy list included such items as sausage, bacon, canned meats, hides, horns and furs.

Other passengers last year were relieved of some 18,000 plants and 8,100 pounds of plant products. The diversified items included potatoes, wheat sheaves, apple, pear and plum rooted tree stocks, heather, grape vines, geraniums, onion sets, conifers, bamboo sticks, snails, mushrooms, live insects, cashew nuts, driftwood, seed necklaces, Polynesian ornaments made from plant products, and even some tiny, packaged palm trees.

FAILURES IN PSYCHIATRIC TRAINING

Dr. Dennis Kussin, president of the Association of Residents in Psychiatry at McGill University, Montreal, has been heading a study on the "astonishingly high failure rate among psychiatric residents taking the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons certification exams" (*The Medical Post*, February 9, 1971).

In 1969, 60 per cent of 189 candidates writing psychiatric certification in Canada failed; in 1968 the failure rate was 57 per cent. According to the residents, the Quebec failure rate is even higher, at 70 per cent.

Dr. Kussin promises a thorough probe. "We must find what the problem is, define it and determine how to deal with it." He admits, however, that the root of the trouble may lie in the lack of unity within the profession.

Since the introduction and success of the