

R.C.A.F. college with the Fall term, 113 naval cadets were undergoing the ground-work of careers in the sea-going service.

Replacements for the men below officer rank who had been demobilized or were leaving the service were being steadily trained at the Esquimalt and Halifax bases. Something over 600 new entries alone received training during the year.

It was a big year for trainees of the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) -- the biggest, in fact, on peacetime record. From every province of the Dominion the "part time sailors" found their way to the two big naval bases for their annual training at sea. Some confined themselves to the two-week minimum period, but of the 1,600 who reported for salt water duty large numbers remained afloat for extensive periods, contributing materially to the manning of ships.

A large number of the 800 members of the University Naval Training Divisions spent the entire summer on active service. Payment at regular naval rates assisted them financially in preparing for the next university term and their courses were so arranged that they served in as close relationship as possible to their regular academic interests. Apart from practical experience obtained in all of Canada's operational units, reservists also were to be found in vessels of the Royal Navy's America and West Indies squadron.

## TARIFF CUTS EFFECTIVE

SECUEL TO GENEVA PACTS: The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, has announced the passing of an Order in Council bringing into effect, from January 1, the tariff concessions granted by Canada in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade concluded at Geneva on October 30, 1947. Eight other countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom are similarly bringing their concessions into effect on the same date.

The tariff changes made at Geneva are of particular importance in the trade between Canada and the United States. Practically the entire range of American tariff restrictions against Canadian goods has been reviewed and very substantially reduced. In general the largest reductions will apply to exports that are already entering the United States on a competitive basis. There were also many tariff reductions made by Commonwealth countries at Geneva and the volume of trade between Commonwealth countries should rise. In the immediate future, however, it is the United States reductions which are of most significance and it is noteworthy that the United States tariffs have been reduced on over 80% of Canadian exports subject to United States duty and continued free entry has been guaranteed on virtually all of our exports which have hitherto entered the United States free of duty.

The Canadian concessions are set forth in Schedule V of the Agreement and consist of

some 1,050 items, of which 590 provide for reductions in the most-favoured-nation tariff below existing rates, and about 460 for the binding or consolidation of the present most-favoured-nation rates. The concessions include also about 100 items in the British Preferential Tariff in regard to which reductions were made in favour of British Commonwealth countries.

A small number of items in the Canadian schedule, respecting which reductions were negotiated with countries that have not undertaken to bring their concessions into effect on January 1st, are being withheld until such time as those countries are in a position to make their concessions available to Canada.

The Canadian tariff concessions, operative on January 1st, will be accorded to each of the 44 foreign countries to which Canada at present grants most-favoured-nation tariff treatment and to all parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

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NEW B.C. PREMIER: Eyrton L. Johnson has been sworn in as Premier of British Columbia, succeeding Premier Hart who resigned after heading the Liberal-Progressive-Conservation coalition since its formation in 1941.

Mr. Hart reached agreement last week with Herbert Anscomb, leader of the Progressive-Conservative bloc in the Legislature for continuation of the coalition.

Premier Johnson's government will be known as the Johnson-Anscomb Government.

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REVISION OF RADIO FREQUENCIES: Complete revision of radio frequencies involving re-allocation on an international scale will be undertaken by a Board of the International Telecommunication Union to be convened shortly in Geneva, Switzerland. Canada's representative to the Provisional Frequency Board will be Charles J. Acton, Radio Division, Department of Transport.

Assisting Mr. Acton will be four technical advisers from each of the defence services and the Defence Research Board. Lt. Col. F. D. W. Wethey, (Army), Lieut. A. R. Hewitt, (Navy), F/L B. R. Rafuse, (R.C.A.F.), and J. C. W. Scott, of the Defence Research Board; Canadian Radio Wave Propagation Laboratory, make up Canada's representation with Mr. Acton.

The purpose of this meeting will be to prepare an engineered frequency assignment plan for the world's radiocommunication services. The Provisional Frequency Board is the outcome of the recent International Telecommunication Conference which was held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, when seventy-nine participating nations recognized the imperative need for an international body of experts to review the problems of radio frequency allocation.