

INTER-AMERICAN E. AND S.C.: The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on October 22 that a telegram has been received from the President of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council inviting the Government of Canada to attend as an observer the Council's Fourth Extraordinary Session to be held in Rio de Janeiro on November 22, 1954, and that, on behalf of the Canadian Government, he has accepted the invitation and has informed the President of the Council that Canada's observer at the Session will be Mr. S. D. Pierce, Canadian Ambassador to Brazil.

At the Tenth Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States, held at Caracas, Venezuela, in March, 1954 it had been agreed that consideration of major economic problems would be referred to a special economic conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro during the last quarter of 1954. This special conference will be the fourth session of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council to be held since 1948.

The Inter-American Economic and Social Council, a dependent organ of the Council of the Organization of American States, is composed of representatives of each member state and assists the Council of the Organization of American States. In the past, the Canadian Government has followed with interest the activities of the Inter-American bodies and has in fact participated in the activities of a number of the subsidiary technical bodies related to the Organization of American States.

At this meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council important trade and economic problems will be discussed and Canada has accepted the invitation to attend in view of its position and interest in world economic affairs. Trade between Canada and the American republics has, in recent years, become of increasing importance to Canada and to these countries.

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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: The time loss arising from industrial disputes in Canada was 127,582 man-working days, compared to 48,210 man-working days for the previous month according to a preliminary survey of strikes and lockouts released by the Minister of Labour. More than 72 per cent of the total time loss was accounted for by two industrial disputes.

Of the 21 disputes in existence during September the two which accounted for more than 72 per cent of the total time loss were farm implement factory workers in Toronto and plumbers and steamfitters in Montreal. These two work stoppages were responsible for a combined time loss of 92,000 man-working days and involved a total of 6,500 workers.

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Last year newspapermen in Canada wired 61,010,460 words, about 1,607,040 more than in 1952.

DECISIONS ACCLAIMED: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, in a statement issued October 23, said that, on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, he welcomed the signature in Paris of protocols extending the Brussels Treaty and providing for the accession of the Federal Republic of Germany to the North Atlantic Treaty.

Mr. St. Laurent said that he was confident that the protocols would be approved by the Parliaments of the countries concerned within a very few months, thus opening the way for the Federal Republic to enter into full partnership with like-minded countries in the organization of peace and security.

Canadians, he said, acclaimed the decisions reached at the recent nine-power conference in London, and the further steps taken this week in Paris, as heartening evidence of progress along the road to European unity within the wider community of the North Atlantic countries.

The Prime Minister declared that Canada looked forward to continued fruitful collaboration with her partners, old and new, in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

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HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA: His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Abdul Rauf on October 26 presented to His Excellency the Governor General his credentials as High Commissioner of India to Canada. The ceremony of presentation took place at Government House.

Dr. Rauf, who was born in 1901, is a graduate of Oxford University (B.A. with honours in Jurisprudence; B.C.L.) and of Trinity College, Dublin (LL.D.). He practiced law in his country from 1925 to 1945 and served as a judicial member of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal from 1945 to 1946. From 1946 to 1952, he represented India in Burma under the successive titles of Representative, High Commissioner, and Ambassador. Prior to his appointment to Canada, Dr. Rauf was Ambassador to Japan.

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WINS U.S. AIR MEDAL: Flight Lieutenant William H. Bliss, of Toronto, an RCAF exchange officer stationed with the Royal Air Force near Luffenham, Rutland, was recently presented with the United States military award of the Air Medal at an investiture in the office of the U.S. Air Attaché in London, England, Brigadier General John M. Sterling. The award, authorized by President Eisenhower with the consent of Her Majesty the Queen, is for outstanding achievement while participating in the Korean War.

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Wholesalers in nine lines of trade increased their sales by an average 2.9% in August as compared with a year earlier and the value of their month-end inventories was reduced 1.2%, according to the Bureau's monthly survey.