

**TRADE ACCORD WITH EGYPT:** The Department of External Affairs announced on December 5 that following a recent exchange of notes Canada is extending most-favoured-nation tariff treatment to Egypt on a reciprocal basis with effect from December 3, 1952.

This means that henceforth Egyptian products imported into Canada will not be subject to duties or charges higher than those levied on products of other countries receiving most-favoured-nation treatment either bilaterally or through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Likewise Canadian products going into Egypt will be treated as favourably as the products of other countries with which Egypt has similar agreements.

Canada's exports to Egypt in 1951 amounted to \$2,465,518.00 and included, among the more important items, soups, automobiles, wheat and paper board. Canadian imports from Egypt included such items as rice and raw cotton.

The new arrangement will not affect any advantages accorded by Canada exclusively to other countries of the Commonwealth or to Ireland. Neither will it affect special privileges accorded by Egypt to adjoining countries and to members of the Arab League.

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**NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL:** There will be a Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Paris commencing on December 15. Canada will be represented by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, and the Minister of Finance, Mr. D.C. Abbott. The chief advisers to the delegation will be Mr. L.D. Wilgress, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. A.D.P. Heeney, Canadian Permanent Representative on the North Atlantic Council, Lieutenant General Foulkes, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, Mr. J.J. Deutsch, Director of the International Economic Relations Division of the Department of Finance.

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**FAMILY ALLOWANCES:** Children born outside Canada become eligible for family allowances after one year's residence in this country, federal welfare officials said on December 5. The statement was prompted by reports from regional family allowances offices that some confusion exists among parents who have recently come to Canada concerning when their children become eligible to receive family allowances.

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Dr. George V. Haythorne, Director of the Economics and Research Branch of the Federal Department of Labour, has been elected Chairman of an International Labour Organization meeting in Geneva on productivity.

**MR. CLAXTON'S ITINERARY:** The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, left Ottawa by RCAF aircraft last week-end to attend the 10th meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Council of Ministers in Paris, Lt.-Gen. Charles Foulkes, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff, will depart later to attend the seventh meeting of NATO's Military Committee.

Prior to the NATO meeting, Mr. Claxton will visit RCAF fighter squadrons at North Luffenham, England, and the RCAF Air Materiel Base at Langar, England. The Minister will fly from the United Kingdom to Bonn where he will confer with Hon. Thomas C. Davis, Q.C., Canadian Ambassador to Germany, before visiting the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade at Hanover. On December 13 Mr. Claxton will attend the official opening ceremony of No. 2 RCAF Fighter Wing at Grostenquin, France.

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**BUSINESS FAILURES:** Commercial failures in the first nine months of this year continued their post-war climb, registrations under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts rising to 1,169 as compared with 1,030 in the similar period of 1951. Estimated liabilities for the nine months were \$22,015,000, an increase of 16 per cent. The average liability per failure was \$18,832, compared with \$18,401.

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**PETROLEUM RECEIPTS:** Overall receipts of crude petroleum by Canadian refineries rose nine per cent in August, amounting to 14,111,434 barrels as compared with 12,985,595 in the same month last year. Crude oil received from domestic sources increased to 6,294,033 barrels from 5,627,821, and the imports were up to 7,817,401 barrels from 7,357,776.

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**RESIDENT OFFICER AT VIENNA:** The Department of External Affairs announced on December 5 the posting of Mr. A.J. Andrew, at present First Secretary in the Canadian Embassy at Bonn, Germany, to be resident officer at Vienna. The Canadian Minister to Switzerland, Mr. Victor Doré who is also Canadian Minister to Austria, will continue to visit Vienna periodically. In his absence, Mr. Andrew will act as Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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**HANOVER TROOP SHUFFLE:** The biggest shuffle of the current soldier rotation plan took place on November 29 and 30 when over 1,650 soldiers arrived or departed the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade in Hanover. Special troop trains were involved as 733 married officers and men departed for Canada and 923 arrived to take their places in Europe. The process of loading and unloading troops was accomplished in four hours.