

MINISTER OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The Department of External Affairs announced on January 5 that His Excellency Bedrich Hruska had presented to His Excellency the Governor General his letter of credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Czechoslovakia to Canada. The ceremony took place at Government House.

Mr. Hruska was born in 1910. After graduating from the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University in Prague, he taught in various schools and industrial colleges, and later became Principal of an industrial college and subsequently Head of the Regional Department of Education and Culture. In 1953 he entered the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry and was appointed Chief of the Anglo-Saxon Section of the Committee for Cultural Relations for Foreign Countries, a post which he still held upon his appointment to Canada.

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DEEPEST LAKE FISHERY: For years to come Great Slave Lake in Canada's Northwest Territories will continue to yield an enormous annual catch of some 9,000,000 pounds of freshwater fish. This is the opinion of fishery scientists reporting this week to the Fisheries Research Board annual meeting in Ottawa.

Great Slave Lake, which covers an area of 11,070 square miles, is the fifth largest and the deepest lake on the North American continent. It is also the continent's largest producer of lake trout and whitefish combined.

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WHEAT SUPPLIES: Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on December 22 totalled 350,144,000 bushels, slightly larger than the 344,539,000-bushel total of a week earlier, but 6% smaller than last year's 371,064,000 bushels. Deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week were sharply lower at 10,690,000 bushels versus 25,522,000 a year ago. At the same time overseas export clearances rose to 3,080,000 bushels from 1,546,000.

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Volume III of the foreign trade of Canada for the calendar year 1953 was released January 5 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. It contains final detailed statistics on imports by articles and countries of origin for the years 1951, 1952 and 1953.

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The Defence Research Board has announced the appointment of Dr. John C. Arnell, of Ottawa, Senior Scientific Staff Officer (Special Weapons); as Director of Scientific Intelligence.

AMBASSADOR OF HAITI: The Department of External Affairs announced on January 3 that His Excellency Jacques Léger on that day presented to His Excellency the Governor General his letter of credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Haiti to Canada. The ceremony took place at Government House.

Mr. Jacques Léger was born at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 1914. After graduating in law, he was called to the bar of Port-au-Prince. He entered the Haitian Foreign Service in 1934. Since then he has represented his country, in various capacities, in the following countries: Venezuela, Cuba, Argentina and Brazil. He has also attended a number of international conferences, and has held several posts in the Foreign Ministry, including that of Secretary of State for External Relations. In 1952, he was appointed Ambassador at Washington, a post which he will still hold concurrently with that of Ambassador to Canada.

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CHRISTMAS SALES JUMP: Canadians went on a shopping spree this Christmas that boosted department store sales 32.2% above the 1953 Christmas week level. Preliminary estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reveal that in the week ending December 24 sales were higher than a year earlier in all parts of the country.

The biggest boost over the corresponding week of 1953 was a 46.4% sales jump for department stores in the four Atlantic Provinces. On the other side of the country, British Columbia department stores rang up a 40.3% sales gain. Ontario sales were up 34.4%, Alberta sales 27.4%, Quebec sales 25.6%, Saskatchewan sales 25.4%, and Manitoba sales 20.6%

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TEXTILE OUTPUT DOWN IN 1952: Canadian production of all textiles except clothing was valued at \$744,141,645 in 1952, a drop of \$102,335,658 or 12% from the output of the preceding year, according to the Bureau's annual general review of this group of industries. The group comprises the cotton textile industry, the wool textiles industry; the synthetic textiles and silk industry, the dyeing and finishing of textile goods industry, and miscellaneous textile products industries.

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The rate of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) per thousand population ranged from 15.9 in British Columbia to 26.3 in Newfoundland in 1953, averaged 19.6 for Canada as a whole.