

CONFERENCE ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Finance; Dr. A.E. Richards, Department of Agriculture; Mr. B.G. Barrow, Department of Trade and Commerce; Mr. H.V. Jarrett, Department of Trade and Commerce; Mr. J.P.C. Gauthier, Department of Trade and Commerce. Secretary: Mr. H.H. Wright, Department of External Affairs.

The Torquay Conference will include two sets of meetings under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The first will consist of a third round of multilateral tariff negotiations commencing when the Conference opens. These meetings will follow the pattern of the Geneva (1947) and Annecy (1949) tariff negotiations and are expected to continue for six months.

The second set of meetings will take place under the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which require contracting parties to meet from time to time to give effect to certain provisions of the Agreement which involve joint action and, generally, to facilitate the operation and to further the objectives of the Agreement. These meetings opening on November 2, will be the fifth such session of contracting parties since the negotiation of the General Agreement at Geneva in 1947.

Mr. Wilgress has been re-elected Chairman of the contracting parties; in that position he will preside over the tariff negotiations and the Fifth Session of the contracting parties.

Mr. McKinnon will be Chairman of the two Canadian negotiating teams; for this purpose he will be seconded to the Department of External Affairs. Mr. Deutsch of the Department of Finance will be in charge of the negotiations with regard to Canadian tariffs and Mr. Isbister of the Department of Trade and Commerce will be in charge of the negotiations with regard to foreign tariffs.

The following countries are expected to participate in the Torquay Conference:

Australia, Austria, Benelux, (i.e. Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg, Brazil, Burma, Ceylon, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Western Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Italy, Liberia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, The Philippines, Sweden, Syria-Lebanon Union, Turkey, United Kingdom, Union of South Africa, United States, and Uruguay. \* \* \* \*

**APPLE CROP DOWN 16 P.C.:** With the exception of apples and pears, prospects for tree-fruit and grape crops improved slightly during the past month, according to the third estimate of fruit production released by the Bureau of Statistics. The apple and pear crops are estimated to be three per cent lighter than was anticipated in July.

The apple crop, currently set at 15,209,000 bushels, will be 16 per cent below the 1949

harvest of 18,151,000 bushels, the drop in outlook being due to poorer prospects in Nova Scotia where high winds and severe scab infestation have reduced both the size and quality of the fruit. The crop in Ontario and British Columbia showed some improvement during the month while prospects in New Brunswick and Quebec remained unchanged.

The anticipated pear harvest is set at 703,000 bushels, 30 per cent lower than last year's crop of 1,000,000 bushels. Plums are also down sharply this season, the current estimate of 519,000 bushels being 37 per cent below the 1949 level of 827,000 bushels, but seven per cent higher than was expected last month. The peach crop shows a minor upward revision since July at 1,160,000 bushels; the crop, however, is still well below the 1949 harvest of 2,011,000 bushels

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**MR. MCILRAITH TO LONDON CONFERENCE:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, announced on September 7 that Mr. George J. McIlraith will represent the Canadian Government at general economic and financial discussions amongst Commonwealth countries that will take place in London during the week beginning September 18. Mr. McIlraith is Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

The meetings are timed so that Commonwealth representatives, who are attending meetings in Paris of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, may proceed to London when the Paris meetings are over.

Mr. Graham F. Towers, Governor of the Bank of Canada, who is attending the Bank and Fund meetings in Paris will go on to London to attend the discussions with Mr. McIlraith. Mr. John J. Deutsch, Director of the International Economic Relations Division of the Department of Finance, and Mr. Claude Isbister, Director of the International Trade Relations Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce, will also attend as advisers.

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**MR. TOWERS TO PARIS:** It was announced on September 1 that Graham Towers, Governor of the Bank of Canada, would represent Canada at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which began on September 6 in Paris.

Also attending the meetings will be Mr. L. Rasminsky, Canada's Director on the Boards of the Fund and the Bank, and Mr. J.F. Parkinson, Alternate Director.

Mr. Towers is Alternate Governor of both these organizations and is attending the meetings because of the necessity for the Governor, the Hon. Douglas Abbott, to remain in Ottawa for the emergency session of Parliament.

Mr. Towers expects to visit the United Kingdom following the Paris meetings.