

CANADA-COLOMBIA TRADE PACT

A new trade agreement was signed last month between Canada and the Republic of Colombia by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Brigadier-General Luis Ernesto Ordonez Castillo, the Ambassador of Colombia to Canada.

"Within the context of the Canadian Government's broad foreign policy review, Canada has been seeking to broaden and deepen its trade and economic relations with the countries of Latin America," Mr. Pepin said. "Since early in this century, trade between Canada and Colombia has been carried out under an extension to Canada of the 1866 U.K.-Colombia Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation. The present agreement provides a more formal and direct basis for our bilateral trade and economic relations with Colombia."

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, Mr. Pepin recalled the hospitality that had been extended to him and his colleagues during the visit of the Canadian ministerial mission to Colombia in 1968. He congratulated that country on its outstanding economic progress and said that he looked forward to seeing further increases in trade between Canada and Colombia.

Colombia, to which Canada exported \$24.6 million last year, is an important market for Canadian newsprint, asbestos, plastics and synthetic rubber and a wide range of manufactured products. During the last decade, Colombian exports to Canada have

almost doubled, reaching a total value of \$26 million in 1970. Colombia, well known as a supplier of high-quality coffee to Canada, also provides other products, including petroleum, which last year amounted to \$14.2 million.

With the support of the Export Development Corporation, Canadian exporters are devoting increasing attention to the Colombian market. Canadian consulting firms in Colombia are providing engineering services and technical supervision in several areas including mining.

DEVELOPMENT AID

In development assistance, the Canadian Government, through the Canadian International Development Agency, has identified several areas of the Colombian economy in which Canadian expertise can assist Colombian industry. The projects that have been chosen in forestry and woodworking will help develop non-traditional exports from Colombia, thus supporting the efforts of the Colombian Government to decrease the dependency of the Colombian economy on coffee as a single major export commodity.

The Alto-Anchicaya hydro-electric project represents one of the major Canadian contributions to the development programs in Colombia. A loan amounting to \$16.74 million has been approved and made available by the IADB from the Canadian funds managed by the Bank.

PUBLIC SERVICE LANGUAGE-TRAINING

During 1964, 42 Canadian public servants and five teachers embarked on a new experiment — language-training in the public service.

Now, seven years later, the Public Service Commission of Canada is training about 9,000 persons a year, employs about 400 language teachers and has schools operating across Canada.

The phenomenal growth in language-training is a result of the Federal Government's aim of creating a functionally bilingual public service. The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, John J. Carson, says that the goal is "a public service that is capable of offering services in both languages where necessary and a public service in which both *francophones* and *anglophones* can enjoy an equal opportunity to fulfil their career aspirations".

The Commission's largest language-training operation is in the national capital region; schools are also located in Montreal, Quebec City and Winnipeg. In Ottawa the main language-school consists of nine buildings, which, along with a school in

Hull, employ nearly 300 language instructors and will admit about 5,500 students to day-classes during the academic year and up to 500 during the summer. The main school can handle 1,400 language students, with about ten in each class, in its some 150 classrooms and language laboratories. Last year, for example, 5,881 English-speaking students were enrolled in French courses, 679 of whom were at the advanced levels, while 1,037 French-speaking students were learning English, 582 of whom were taking advanced courses.

KINDS OF COURSE

The first courses were closely modelled on those in use in the private sector, but it was soon found that they were inadequate to meet the needs of federal public servants. To solve this problem and to create better courses and teaching methods, the Commission's Language Bureau assembled a group of experts who began developing a language-teaching system that is thought to be one of the best in the world.

One of the results of this development is