

Supply—Trade and Commerce

earmarked primarily for capital aid to underdeveloped countries in southeast Asia. As in previous years a large proportion of the total funds has been set aside for aid to India and Pakistan for specific development projects, ranging from cobalt beam therapy installations to hydroelectric projects, and for commodities, such as wheat, nonferrous metals and fertilizers. This continues the pattern of last year and reflects the continuing urgent need for development in industry and agriculture in Pakistan and India.

The level of assistance to other Colombo plan countries is being generally maintained, and in the case of Malaya increased. The Mekong river development project, which will benefit Laos, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Thailand, is in an early stage of preparation, and over the next two years \$1.3 million of our Colombo plan funds will be channelled into this undertaking. A further amount of approximately \$200,000 will be spent in financing the Colombo plan medical book scheme, which will make available to individual universities in southeast Asia a supply of up to date medical texts and works of reference.

In the second year of the Canada-West Indies assistance program, \$2.1 million have been allotted from the \$10 million fund to be spent over the 5-year duration of this scheme. Much of this money will be used to pay for the initial stages of constructing the two ships which Canada will present to the West Indies Federation.

The Canada-Ghana assistance program is being expanded this year to include all commonwealth regions which have not until now benefited from Canadian bilateral aid; compared with last year's allocation of \$135,000 an amount of \$500,000 is required in 1959 to finance the larger scheme, which will be known as the commonwealth technical assistance program.

Our expanded foreign aid activities are also taking the form of increased technical assistance. Since January 1, 1959 we have sent five more technical experts to Colombo plan countries, and three new advisers to Ghana. Meanwhile 52 trainees have been brought to Canada for specialized technical instruction under bilateral aid programs. In the first five months of this year the cost of these endeavours amounted to over \$232,000. Canada has also co-operated with such multilateral aid agencies as UNTAA and UNESCO by recruiting five technical experts for overseas service and providing facilities for a further 79 trainees.

Finally, an entirely novel aid program which was foreshadowed at last September's Montreal conference is taking shape largely

on Canadian initiative. This is the commonwealth scholarship scheme. The objective here is to provide 1,000 scholarships to deserving students in the commonwealth. Canada has undertaken to provide for 250 of these scholarships at an annual cost of about \$1 million. The scheme will be a major topic of discussion at next month's commonwealth education conference at Oxford, England, and will go into effect in the fall of 1960.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I should like to pay tribute to the Canadian business community. Our expanding trade and economic opportunities are not the result of physical resources alone. In the final analysis it is individual businessmen who translate ideas and opportunities into transactions and who take the risks and the consequences required under our free enterprise system. In an economy as heavily dependent on foreign trade as ours the high standard of living we enjoy is to a very great extent a measure of the enterprise and efficiency of Canadian businessmen.

Over the past year, I have met with hundreds of individual businessmen and have participated in many meetings of trade associations. My officials are constantly in touch with manufacturers and exporters. They visit businessmen in their plants; they participate in study groups and meetings organized by trade associations; they receive company officials in the department in Ottawa; and they provide a commercial intelligence service to businessmen which is unequalled by any other country. We value this regular contact highly. No new initiative is taken in the trade policy field, no new trade offices established or trade fair planned without consultation with our exporters.

It is, of course, not always possible to adopt all the suggestions we receive from industry. There are often conflicting interests within the business community itself or among the various sectors of the economy. On occasions we are asked to do things which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the federal government. The department, however, welcomes suggestions and representations from Canadian business and ensures that these views receive serious attention.

The two trade fairs sponsored by the department in the West Indies in January, February and March of this year are good examples of how this close liaison with exporters works to the advantage of our foreign trade. Officers of the department meet regularly with businessmen and trade associations interested in foreign trade fairs and when it became clear that the situation in the