

## NEW SAIGON COMMISSIONER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, has announced the appointment of Mr. C.J. Woodsworth as Canadian Commissioner to the International Supervisory Commission for Vietnam, to succeed Mr. John Price Erichsen-Brown.

Mr. Woodsworth, who is at present Consul and Information Officer at the Canadian Consulate-General in New York, will take up his duties in Saigon early in May.

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## BIG ALBERTA WATER PROJECT

A ten-year development plan to control flooding, enhance water conservation and provide a domestic water supply to communities in the McLennan-Girouxville area of northern Alberta, is nearing completion. The \$800,000 project was engineered by the Water Resource Branch of the Alberta Department of Agriculture.

Last phase of the programme is a second earth fill dam on the Heart River to be completed in 1960, which will make provision for an additional 10 vertical feet of water storage over the reservoir area. This, together with the new structure completed in 1959 at the Winagami Lake outlet, will make possible a better control over flood waters and assure an adequate year-round domestic water supply for the communities of McLennan, Donnelly, Falher and Girouxville.

Up to 1950, the water supply in these northern centers was practically non-existent. Residents were dependent upon deep wells, storage dugouts or water by the barrel. In some cases it was transported by train and truck as ordinary freight.

A serious flooding problem in the area between High Prairie and Grouard resulted from the confluence of spring flood waters from the Heart River, West Prairie River and the East Prairie River.

Two stagnant bodies of water, known as Winagami and Kimiwan Lakes, derived their supply of water from the run-off of a very limited drainage area. To insure the continued existence of these lakes through drier periods, it was evident that an alternative source of water would have to be made available to them.

In 1949-50, Water Resources Branch engineers designed and built a dam on the Heart River 30 miles north of High Prairie. A canal was constructed to divert water from the reservoir created by this dam, into Lake Winagami. At the southern end of the lake a second canal was constructed together with a reinforced concrete spillway to carry over-flow back into the Heart River several miles downstream from the dam.

With the lake thus freshened up, engineers embarked on another phase of the programme -- the construction of a five-mile canal from the

northwestern shore of Winagami to connect with Kimiwan Lake at McLennan. The towns of Donnelly, Falher and Girouxville became a part of the system with the completion in 1957 of an 18.5-mile canal extending to the west from McLennan. This canal provided the area with much-needed drainage and flood control, and also made Heart River water available to these towns for domestic purposes. This water is pumped from the canals, stored in reservoirs and supplied to the residents of the towns by a modern waterworks system.

The new outlet control on Lake Winagami returns excess water to the Heart River system. It is completely automatic and has two automatic radial gates. If necessary the structure can be manually operated.

With the increased control over the amount of water flowing into and out of Winagami Lake, residents of the northern communities are assured of a plentiful and reliable water supply. The new dam reservoir will be able to hold back flood water from the Heart River until the flood crests of other streams in the area have been passed.

The extended control will also assist development of the provincial park at Winagami.

With the completion of effective flood-control measures on the Heart River, the Water Resources Branch are turning their efforts to controlling the flooding of the High Prairie district by the West and East Prairie Rivers. Contour maps are now being prepared of a 260,000-acre area.

Last winter the Branch sponsored a winter works project in the area for the clearing of 18 miles of debris and logs that had fallen or were about to fall into the West Prairie River. Another crew is working on a similar programme this winter. Debris and logs in the river are a contributing factor in causing floods as they invariably create jams, backing up the water, which inundates surrounding land.

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## INTERIM WHEAT PAYMENT

Trade and Commerce Minister Churchill announced recently that an interim payment would be made to wheat producers of 10 cents a bushel for all grades of wheat delivered to the 1958-59 pool. He also said that, with respect to the 1958-59 oats and barley pools, the Canadian Wheat Board reported selling operations as well advanced, and that the two pools would be closed in the near future. Therefore, when the interim wheat payment has been completed, there will be a distribution of the final surpluses in the 1958-59 oats and barley pools.

Producers delivered a total of 366,989,780 bushels to the 1958-59 wheat pool. The interim payment will thus involve the distribution of \$36,698,978.