

### SPAAK IN OTTAWA

M. Paul Henri Spaak, Secretary-General of NATO, visited Ottawa on June 16 and 17, following his visit to Washington. During his stay, M. Spaak talked on NATO matters with Prime Minister Diefenbaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Green, and the Ministers of Finance, National Defence and Defence Production.

### NEW OCCUPATIONAL MONOGRAPH

A monograph, No. 46 in the "Canadian Occupations" series, entitled "Office Occupations", has been released by the Department of Labour. It covers more than twenty-five occupations found in offices, and, in a general section, deals with the office as a field of employment, including its history and importance, trends, education and training, personal qualifications, entry, and working conditions.

Office workers are classified into the secretarial group, the public-contact group, records and processing clerks, the accounting group and office-machine operators. For each of these occupations, the monograph outlines the duties, the outlook for advancement, and the salaries.

This 64-page booklet features an attractive new cover-design, is well illustrated and sells for 20 cents.

The "Canadian Occupations" series covers a wide range of occupations, including many professions. It is prepared by the Labour Department's Economics and Research Branch to meet a demand for current information on Canadian occupations from young people faced with the need of choosing an occupation and preparing for it; from parents, teachers and vocational guidance counsellors; from workers wishing to change their occupations; from employment service officers; from personnel directors and union officials, and from other quarters.

All publications in the series are available from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

### SEED GRAIN INDEBTEDNESS

The cancellation of outstanding debts to the federal government as a result of seed-grain advances to Western Prairie farmers, some dating back to the end of the last century, has been approved by the Cabinet, it was announced recently by Resources Minister Alvin Hamilton. The Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which have a 50 per cent equity in some of the advances, have concurred in this action.

Between 1876 and 1925, the Federal Government advanced loans of seed grain, fodder and other relief to needy settlers in Western Canada. Supplementary advances made in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan between 1919 and 1923 were financed jointly by the

federal and provincial governments on a 50-50 basis. The advances were secured by liens registered against the homesteads, pre-emptions and other lands of the settlers concerned.

From 1927 to the present time, the total debt was reduced from \$16 million to about \$200,000 in principal, through an extended programme of compromise settlements, outright cancellation where circumstances justified such action, tax and mortgage foreclosures or reversion of the lands to the Crown. All liens registered against lands in British Columbia and Manitoba were discharged or released some time ago, and payments on the remaining Alberta and Saskatchewan accounts have fallen off in recent years due to unfavourable crop conditions.

The majority of the outstanding accounts are registered against marginal or submarginal farms owned by small-unit operators, many of whom suffered severe crop damage during the past winter, and further payments would cause unwarranted financial hardship.

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### AMBASSADOR OF ICELAND

His Excellency Thor Thors recently presented to the Governor-General his Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Iceland to Canada. The ceremony took place at Government House.

This was the second time Mr. Thors had presented his credentials to a Governor-General of Canada. In January 1948 Mr. Thors presented to the then Governor-General, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, his Letters of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Iceland to Canada. The recent decision of the Governments of Iceland and Canada to raise their respective Legations to Embassies has now necessitated the presentation of Mr. Thors' credentials as Ambassador.

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### MILITARY VISITOR FROM U.A.R.

Brigadier-General A. Hilmy, Senior Liaison Officer of the United Arab Republic at Headquarters of the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt, visited Canada from June 17 to June 27. During his 10-day stay, he toured defence establishments and historical sites in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

Arriving at the RCAF Station, Trenton, Ontario, on June 17, Brigadier-General Hilmy first visited points of interest at Niagara Falls. On June 20, he visited the Royal Military College and old Fort Henry at Kingston.

In Ottawa next day, he attended a lunch given by Ambassador Abdel Hamid I. Seoud of the United Arab Republic, and called on senior officers at Army Headquarters.

On June 22, he toured Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick, and two days later visited Camp Valcartier and The Citadel at Quebec City.