

AT TUNIS CEREMONY: Canada was represented by Mr. Léon Mayrand, Canadian Ambassador in Madrid, at Ceremonies in Tunis on March 20, marking the first anniversary of Tunisian independence. Mr. Mayrand was the first official Canadian Representative to visit the new State of Tunisia.

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MORE AT WORK: At February 16, 1957, an estimated 5,362,000 persons in Canada had jobs, 146,000 more than in February 1956, according to a news release issued jointly by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work, an estimated 323,000, was 5.7 per cent of the labour force, compared with 5.6 per cent last year and 7 per cent in February 1955. Registrations for employment at National Employment Service offices at 575,000, amounted to 10.1 per cent of the labour force compared with 9.3 per cent a year earlier and 11.4 per cent in February 1955.

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HOUSING LOANS: The Bank of Canada has announced that the chartered banks have agreed in principle to approve new housing loans in 1957 in a total amount of not less than \$150 million, or approximately 15,000 units.

Insured housing loans were approved by the chartered banks during 1956 for approximately 16,000 units, involving the sum of approximately \$160 million. Actual disbursements by the banks on mortgage loans during 1956 amount to \$235 million, including disbursements made on loans which had been approved in the previous year.

The new agreement relates to a minimum amount only. It is, of course, open to banks to undertake more insured housing loans if they wish to do so.

In recent months most banks had greatly slowed down their rate of approvals of housing loans owing to uncertainty as to whether they would have a growth in their total resources sufficient to enable them to finance an increase in the total outstanding amount of housing loans on their books. The Bank of Canada assured the chartered banks that as a group their total resources could be expected to increase during 1957 by an amount at least great enough to take care of their disbursements on mortgage loans, including those on loans approved prior to 1957 as well as on loans which would be approved this year in accordance with the above programme. It should not be necessary for the banks to dispose of other assets in order to maintain a flow of funds for insured housing loans.

The representatives of the Bank of Canada and of the chartered banks also held a preliminary discussion in general terms of the suggestion made in the Annual Report of the Governor of the Bank of Canada that it might

be worth having some study and discussion of a gradual approach to a steadier (and over the years a larger) participation by the banks in the field of mortgage loans and other long-term investments, particularly having regard to the growth in the volume of personal savings deposits held with the Banks. This matter had recently been discussed by the Governor with senior officials of the banks individually, but this was the first occasion on which a collective discussion has been held. It was agreed that this matter was one which called for further study and discussion by all concerned. Participation by the banks in the specific programme regarding mortgage loans in 1957 does not imply either concurrence or disagreement by any bank with the longer run proposals outlined in the Governor's Annual Report.

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CANADA'S FIRST: A hospital for the treatment of mentally ill children will be set up at Thistletown in Metropolitan Toronto, on a 92-acre site which has just been acquired from Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, Health Minister Dr. M. Phillips announced recently in the Legislature.

This new hospital will be Canada's first research centre for mentally ill children in Canada, and Dr. Phillips says the programme to be developed there will be unique in North America.

Purchase of the property, which was used as a summer convalescent home by the Hospital for Sick Children, was made possible largely because of the effectiveness of the anti-polio vaccine programme in the Province. Since the latter went into operation, the number of polio cases among children has been drastically reduced in Ontario, and the authorities of the Hospital for Sick Children are going to use the proceeds of the sale to provide certain needed extensions at the Hospital.

The Thistletown location is considered ideal by Health Department authorities because it is close to the University of Toronto, and this will facilitate the programme of research and observation. Moreover the establishment needs little renovation to be adapted to its new purpose.

Dr. Phillips pointed out that the new centre is designed strictly for mentally ill, or psychotic children, and not for mentally defective or mentally retarded children. He also expressed the hope that the stay of the patients would not be too long.

"There is a good chance," said the Health Minister, "that, as our research programme develops, more than 70 per cent will be cured within a year and returned to active life. It is possible that we will be able to cure almost all psychotic children."

The Thistletown Hospital was constructed in 1928 and has a capacity of 115 beds.