

that "some additional instruction be given in literature and in history in order that a wider experience of men may be joined to a deeper knowledge of human affairs from the recorded pages of history and literature". They found that, generally speaking, "the young Canadian Naval officer is not as well educated as his British and American contemporary".

At an early stage in the report the Commission emphasises that, "Although this report in the very nature of things is bound to be critical, it must not be assumed that there are not many reasons for great national pride in the achievements of the Canadian Navy past and present, and in the men who inherit and guard its traditions. It is certain also that wisdom, experience, and the passage of time will, by their own momentum, work many great and lasting improvements. We were asked to find out what was wrong with the Navy. If, therefore, we have stressed what is wrong, it should not be forgotten that a great deal also is overwhelmingly right. The fact that men and officers are restless, and constructively critical, is a welcome sign of national convalescence, and a bright promise of naval and national health and well-being."

CONDITIONS THAT FOLLOW WAR

The Commissioners also stress the influence upon the matters under investigation of conditions of universal unrest that generally follow a war. Reference is also made to the rapid growth in wartime and the swift construction in peacetime of the Royal Canadian Navy.

No evidence was found to substantiate a rumour that there was a shortage of food in H.M.C.S. "CRESCENT". On the contrary, all witnesses testified that with due allowance for the difficulties in obtaining fresh supplies in Chinese waters, the food, although dull, was completely adequate.

The Commission found among the witnesses a general desire to "Canadianize" the Royal Canadian Navy. The report puts it this way: - "We have also sought to interpret the wishes of the great majority of men by stressing the need to 'Canadianize' our navy. In so doing, we wish to record that in common with most thoughtful Canadians, we have an abiding admiration and respect for the grand traditions and institutions of the Royal Navy and for their continuing beneficent and steadying force wherever British and Canadian ships may sail. We hope that all that is good in these shared traditions will remain with us and that only what is inefficient and inconsistent with our national need, character, dignity and special conditions will disappear from the Navy of Canada."

Three main recommendations relate to this point. The practice of wearing Maple Leaves on funnels of H.M.C. Ships, which was developed during the Second World War and abandoned at

the conclusion of it, should, the Commissioners feel, be re-instituted. This is one of the points covered before the report was made. In fact orders to this effect were issued before the Inquiry was set up. "Canada" or "Royal Canadian Navy" should appear on shoulder flashes on the uniforms of all ranks. The training of young Canadian Naval officers at Canadian Services Colleges should be followed by practical experience in Canadian training ships with young men of the type they will later be called upon to lead, rather than by training in ships of the Royal Navy. If Canadian ships are not immediately available, a partial diversion to ships of the United States Navy as well as to ships of the Royal Navy should, the Commission feels, be considered.

The Commission deplored the lack of recreational facilities for Naval personnel at the two Canadian coastal bases, particularly at Esquimalt. The members visited the United States Naval Air Station at Seattle, a base accommodating approximately the same number of officers and men as are accommodated at Esquimalt. In comparing conditions at the two bases, the Commission states - "When we compared the magnificent facilities for the playing of games, for the carrying on of hobbies for sea bathing and for reading at Seattle, with the dingy surroundings, the poor quarters and the lack of equipment at Esquimalt, we could not be anything but envious for our country's sake." They recommend that institutions similar to the one at Seattle be established at both Canadian coasts.

SERVING OF LIQUOR

There is also a recommendation relating to the serving of liquor in ships. Proposals made by witnesses ranged from retention of the present system to the total abolition of alcoholic drinks on board Canadian ships. The Commission states that, "if any change is to take place, it should not be imposed by an outside authority but should be the result of a careful assessment of all factors by the Navy itself. We recommend, therefore, that the Naval authorities be invited to consider this question in the light of present conditions and to report thereon to the Minister."

Another recommendation calls for the organization of Welfare Committees in all ships and establishments in such a way as to permit free discussion between officers and men of conditions affecting the Service. Others deal with extended and improved methods of training and educating officers, petty officers and men, the presentation of grievances, a more realistic approach to recruiting methods, medical care for dependents, free transportation for personnel proceeding on annual leave, improved living conditions in ships, the provision of better films in ships, and other improvements in service conditions...