

CANADIAN REPRESENTATION IN BRITISH COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, United Kingdom

During 1942 as the war has progressed constantly changing conditions have imposed upon the staff of Canada House varied and growing responsibilities, and the volume of official correspondence and the number of cables sent and received have increased substantially over 1941. Continuous contact has been maintained with the Department of External Affairs and with the representatives of other Canadian Departments of Government in London. Close relations also continue to exist with the various Ministries of the Government of the United Kingdom and with representatives in London of foreign governments. With the establishment of the various Combined Boards in Washington and advisory bodies in London the Trade and technical Officers at Canada House have been brought still more closely into touch with the Departments concerned and employed more extensively in a liaison capacity between the High Commissioner's Office and the United Kingdom Departments dealing with matters affecting the supply of food and raw materials. Contact has also been maintained with the work of the Imperial War Graves Commission, the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux and the Imperial Economic Committee. An important phase of the work of the Office is the maintenance of liaison in London with the headquarters of the three Canadian Services.

The presence in the United Kingdom of a large number of Canadian nationals gives rise to a variety of questions which have a legal aspect such as obligations for military and civilian duties. Questions of this character have increased in number and the attachment to the staff of Mr. D. M. Johnson has facilitated dealing with them.

In the past year prisoners of war questions have played an increasingly important part in the work of the Office. In addition to administrative detail connected with the welfare of Canadian prisoners of war, the Office performs the function of liaison through the Imperial Prisoners of War Committee with United Kingdom Government Departments on all matters relating to prisoners of war, both Canadian prisoners in enemy hands and enemy prisoners of war transferred to Canada. The Office is represented on the Imperial Prisoners of War Committee by Mr. G. Ignatieff.

The Office has arranged for transportation to Canada of civilian Canadians and others proceeding to Canada for essential purposes. Incidental to this is the responsibility of arranging for passports and exit permits.

The Wartime Information Board is represented by Mr. Campbell Moodie. The High Commissioner's Committee on Wartime Publicity, on which all the services and other Canadian interests in London are represented, is active in promoting a knowledge of Canada and the Canadian war effort. Mr. James Spence, the former Press Officer at Canada House, has resigned, and the position has now been filled by Captain K. Beattie.

Another aspect of the work of the Office is the allocation of gifts to British communities from Canadian municipalities, organizations and individuals. Many of these gifts have taken the form of mobile kitchens which have been given to the National Fire Service, local governmental bodies and other institutions in the United Kingdom. Arrangements were also made for the disbursement of money raised in Canada for such purposes as the provision of recreational equipment for members of the National Fire Service and the distribution of clothing to children in bombed areas in London.

During 1942 several members of the Canadian Government visited London, when opportunities were provided for an exchange of views with United Kingdom