

DELEGATES TO GENEVA CONFERENCE: The Department of External Affairs announced on February 9, that the following officials will compose the Canadian Delegation to the fourth meeting of countries which are members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This meeting opens in Geneva on February 23 and is expected to last four weeks. Mr. L.D. Wilgress, Canadian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom will head the Delegation. He will be assisted by Mr. Louis Couillard, Economic Division, Department of External Affairs; Mr. J.J. Deutsch, Director, International Economic Relations Division, Department of Finance; Mr. C.M. Isbister, Director, International Trade Relations Division, Department of Trade and Commerce; and Mr. H.R. Kemp, Special Trade Adviser, Department of Trade and Commerce.

By agreement between the member countries, the agenda of the Fourth Session cannot be made public at this time. The Canadian representatives, however, expect to take part in discussions on a wide variety of subjects which are governed by the General Agreement. Of these, probably the most important will be the question of import restrictions imposed by member countries for balance of payments reasons. Canadian representatives also expect to discuss the question of extending, for a further firm period, the tariff concessions exchanged at Geneva in 1947 and at Annecy in 1949. There will be no negotiations at the forthcoming meeting. There is bound to be, however, some discussion of the third round of tariff negotiations which will begin next September.

Under the terms of the General Agreement, the countries members to it, meet from time to time for the purpose of giving effect to those provisions of the Agreement which involve action and, generally, with a view to facilitating the operation and furthering the objectives of the Agreement. The forthcoming meeting is officially known as the Fourth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The General Agreement was concluded at Geneva in 1947. It entered into provisional effect on January 1, 1948, and is now being applied by some twenty-four countries. It is expected that the membership will increase to thirty-three within the next few months, as a result of the tariff negotiations which were held under the General Agreement at Annecy, France, last year.

SMALL DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT: The trend of industrial employment at the beginning of December was slightly downward for the second successive month, when the 20,798 employers co-operating in the Bureau's monthly survey reported 0.2 per cent fewer employees. This loss was accompanied by a similar decline in the weekly salaries and wages.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the general index number of employment at December 1, 1949, stood at 201.5 as compared with 202.0 in the preceding month, and 204.3 at December 1, 1948, when the all-time maximum for that date was recorded. The index of payrolls, based on June 1, 1941 as 100, stood at 224.4 as compared with 224.8 at November 1, and 219.0 at December 1, 1948. Per capita weekly earnings showed little change, averaging \$43.82 as compared with \$43.80 at November 1, and \$42.23 a year earlier.

H.R. KEMP TRADE ADVISER: Improved facilities for the handling of external trade problems are expected to result from a reorganization within its Economic Research and Development Branch, according to a Department of Trade and Commerce announcement on February 9. Hubert R. Kemp, formerly Director of the Commercial Relations and Foreign Tariffs Division, has been raised to the position of Trade Adviser, and Dr. Claude M. Isbister, succeeds him as Director of the International Trade Relations Division, the new name for this Division.

Mr. Kemp's principal function will be the consideration of commercial problems arising from the increasing importance of Canada as a trading nation and the complexity of these problems. He will be responsible for the preparation of studies on international trade developments, and the interpretation of these developments in accordance with Canadian trade policy for the guidance of other officers in the Department, including Trade Commissioners in training and those serving abroad. His extensive knowledge of tariffs and trade practices, his participation in the negotiation of trade agreements with foreign countries, and experience gained at international conferences in London and Geneva for the preparation of a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade qualify Mr. Kemp for the position to which he has been appointed.

In the establishment of an International Trade Relations Division; the former functions of the Commercial Relations and Foreign Tariffs Division will be expanded to provide a closer study of international trade agreements and the implications to Canada of the tariffs and trade practices of other countries. Emphasis will be placed on research and information relating to current developments in the international trade picture and to the effect of these developments on the Canadian economy as a whole, as well as on Canada's domestic and foreign trade.

PACIFIC TRAINING CRUISE: Three ships of the R.C.N.'s Pacific Command will sail from Esquimalt on March 2 on a month-long training cruise which will take them to Mexican and Californian ports, it was announced at Naval Headquarters on February 10.