

ments, rates, costs, co-ordination of transport, international comparability of transport statistics and the drawing up of a general agreement and standard set of rules for road transport.

In order to explore the possibility of expanding East-West trade in Europe, the ECE sponsored consultations among trade experts which took place in Geneva in April 1953. It is reported that in bilateral discussions some useful exchanges took place, but since consultations are to continue in national capitals it is not yet clear what increase in trade may follow.

The Commission held its eighth session in Geneva March 3-18, 1953. Canada, while not a member, follows the proceedings closely and a Canadian observer usually attends the meetings of the Timber Committee.

Economic Commission for Latin America

ECLA is made up of the countries geographically situated in the area plus France, the United Kingdom and the United States. Canada is not a member, but in view of its substantial trade with the area has a general interest in the work of the Commission.

At its fifth session in Rio de Janeiro (April 9-25, 1953) the Commission made a general review of its activities. Emphasis has been placed on projects leading directly to practical action and there has been increasingly close co-operation with member governments on the economic problems of their countries. An important study of the iron and steel industry was undertaken and during the year the Commission issued its fourth *Economic Survey of Latin America*. For the first time the survey gave an analysis of Latin American gross product and its rate of growth.

Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

The full members of ECAFE include the main countries of the area, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, the United States, the Netherlands and France. In April 1953 Afghanistan became a full member and in 1952 Japan was admitted as an associate member.

Increasingly valuable work has been done by ECAFE in trade promotion, and assistance to governments in their plans for industrial development, flood control, inland transport and the development of cottage and small scale industries. The annual *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East* and the quarterly *Economic Bulletin* published by the Commission fill an important statistical need in the area.

The ninth session of ECAFE was held in Bandung, Indonesia February 6-14, 1953 and a conference on trade promotion, the second of its kind under ECAFE auspices, took place in Manila in February and March 1953.

Canada is not a member of the Commission, but as a participant in the Colombo Plan and the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance is particularly interested in the Commission's work at this time. It has thus become customary for a Canadian observer to attend ECAFE meetings.