

SPRING HONORARY DOCTORATES

Canada's Ambassador to Sweden, Miss Blanche Margaret Meagher, was one of the recipients of honorary degrees awarded by Dalhousie University at its spring convocation last month.

Dalhousie also conferred honorary doctorates on Sir Alfred Thompson Denning, Master of the Rolls of England and president of the Court of Appeal; Alexander Brady, professor of political economy; Murray Barnson Emeneau, philologist; Arthur Sydney Pattillo, Q.C., president of the Canadian Bar Association; C. Peter McColough, president of Xerox Corporation; Donald Grant Creighton, historian; Charles Beecher Weld, professor of physiology; and Clarence Melville Bethune, medical doctor and hospital administrator.

KINGSTON HONOURS

During the eighty-fourth graduation ceremonies of the Royal Military College, Kingston, honorary degrees were conferred on Dr. Wilder Penfield, honorary consultant, Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital; Arnold D.P. Heeney, chairman, International Joint Commission, Canadian section; Msgr. Jacques Garneau, associate director, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; and General J.V. Allard, retired chief of the defence staff, now agent general for the Province of Quebec in the United States.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Live births registered in Canada's provincial offices during March numbered 29,014, compared to 29,990 in March 1969. The cumulative total for the first quarter of 1970 was 2.2 percent lower than that for the corresponding period last year. The birth-rate for March was 16.1 per 1,000 population.

In March, a total of 8,706 marriages were filed in provincial offices, giving a rate of 4.8 in 1,000 population. For the first quarter of 1970, marriages exceeded those in the corresponding months of last year by 5.1 per cent, although three provinces reported decreases.

The 12,634 deaths registered during March brought the total number registered for the first quarter of 1970 to 41,824, an increase of 2.2 per cent over that of corresponding months in 1969. The death rate for the month was 7.0.

HIGHWAY-RAILWAY COMMITTEE

The National Advisory Committee on Highway-Railway Grade Crossing Safety was formed recently in Ottawa under the auspices of the Canada Safety Council.

At this founding meeting, Alberta Highways Minister Gordon Taylor was chosen chairman of the Committee and Ashley Hibbard of the federal Cana-

dian Transport Commission vice-chairman. Representatives from five provincial governments, the Canadian Conference of Motor Transport Authorities, the Canadian Railway Labour Association, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Railway Association of Canada, Alberta Safety Council and Canada Safety Council also attended the meeting.

The main purpose of the committee was described as the determining of the most effective ways and means of substantially reducing accidents at grade crossings. A study in depth of the main accident-contributing factors, education, legislation, enforcement and engineering will formulate realistic recommendations for Council action.

While accidents at level-crossings have decreased in recent years and account for less than half of one per cent of all highway accidents, they account for 3.5 per cent of all traffic deaths. The problem remains urgent, there being one death for every 2.8 highway-railway accidents, compared to one death for every 21.6 traffic accidents.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The CSC has been engaged in a highway-railway safety education effort as the result of recommendations for an *ad hoc* committee set up last year in co-operation with the Railway Association of Canada and the Canadian Transport Commission.

At the Ottawa meeting, the Railway Association gave the CSC copies of an audio-visual presentation on level-crossing safety for distribution to provincial safety councils, each consisting of 80 slides and a sound-track as well as a discussion guide.

The audio-visual presentation was prepared on recommendations from the *ad hoc* committee.

MONTREAL AIRPORT BEGUN

Mr. Don Jamieson, Minister of Transport, recently signed a \$12-million contract with International Airport Consultants of Montreal Ltd. for initial development of the new Montreal International Airport near Ste Scholastique, Quebec, which will open in 1974.

A passenger terminal capable of handling six million passengers a year, two runways, taxiways and other essential services are included in this initial phase of the project. International Airport Consultants will provide the new Montreal International Airport project office with management services required for planning, design and construction.

When the airport is complete, it is estimated that some hundreds of millions of dollars will have been spent in the Ste Scholastique area and between 75,000 and 100,000 new jobs will have been created in the region.

Land clearing for the new airport begins this month.