

SPECIAL AMBASSADOR: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced October 8 the appointment of Charles Pierre Hebert, Canadian Minister in Cuba, as Special Ambassador at the inauguration of Dr. Carlos Prío Socarras as President of Cuba on October 10.

Mr. Hebert is the Head of the Special Canadian Mission to the inauguration. This Mission was appointed by Canada on the invitation of the Cuban Government.

The Mission includes Mr. T.B.B. Wainman-Wood, and Miss B. McGregor of the Staff of the Canadian Legation at Havana, and Brigadier H.E. Taber, C.B.E., Military Attaché at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, Air Commodore R.C. Gordon, C.B.E., Air Attaché at the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

AIR CADET CONFERENCE: Air Cadet Liaison and Training Officers of the RCAF last week closed their annual three-day conference at Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa, having discussed all phases of RCAF participation in the Air Cadet movement. The meeting, which was attended by 13 officers from across the country, and by officers from Air Force Headquarters and Air Cadet League officials, was addressed by Air Commodore J.G. Kerr, CBE, AFC, Deputy Air Member for Operations and Training.

Air Commodore Kerr complimented the visiting officers on the job done in connection with Air Cadet work in the last year, noting the tremendous success of the exchange visits with cadets from the United Kingdom and the United States. He said, this year's summer camp activities had met with greater success than ever before.

Chairman for the meeting was Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson, DSO, DFC, Air Cadet Liaison Officer at Air Force Headquarters.

RETAIL SALES INCREASE: Retail store sales in August were again higher than last year but the month's increase was the smallest of any month this year, according to the monthly figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Sales increases for August were also somewhat smaller than the general increase in prices from a year ago, the Bureau report states, indicating some contraction in the quantity of merchandise sold.

The increase in August sales over the same month last year was seven per cent, which compares with a gain of 12 per cent during the eight months ending August. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 239.6 for August this year as compared with 223.9 a year ago.

A feature of the August results is an abrupt slackening in the increases for certain of the non-durable merchandise trades, variety, food and clothing stores being chiefly affected. Among the four apparel trades, two reported lower sales in August -- men's clothing

stores and shoe stores.

The decline in men's clothing store sales in the month was six per cent as compared with a gain of 10 per cent during the eight months, while the decrease in shoe store sales was five per cent for the month compared with a rise of 10 per cent in the cumulative period. Variety store sales were up seven per cent in August and 15 per cent in the eight-month period, food stores seven per cent compared with 14 per cent, family clothing stores two per cent compared with nine per cent, and women's clothing stores 13 per cent compared with 17 per cent.

TRADE OFFICERS' TOUR: Four assistant trade commissioners have set out on a six-week tour of industries in Central and Western Canada, part of their training prior to being posted abroad, according to an announcement by the Foreign Trade Service, Department of Trade and Commerce.

The first-hand knowledge they will gain in visiting industrial plants and government offices from Montreal to Victoria will aid them in serving the interests of Canadian businessmen.

The four Assistant Trade Commissioners on tour are T.M. Burns, H.E. Campbell, W.R. Van, and W.D. Wallace.

Born in Winnipeg, T.M. Burns graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B.Sc. degree, and received his B.Com. degree from Queen's. During the war, he served in the Canadian Army, and prior to joining the Trade Commissioner Service he was with the Department of External Affairs, in Ottawa.

Born in Nelson, B.C., H.E. Campbell graduated from McGill University with a B.Com. degree. He served overseas with the R.C.A.F. Pathfinder Force, and prior to joining the Trade Commissioner Service he was employed by private business in Montreal and California. He was appointed Assistant Trade Commissioner in New York City, January, 1948.

W.R. Van of Quebec City and Montreal, received his B.A. degree from Bishop's College. During the war he served with the R.C.N. in the Mediterranean as Liaison Officer with the French Navy. On completion of his present tour he will be posted to Bogota, Colombia.

Born in Fernie, B.C., W.D. Wallace received his B.A. degree from the University of British Columbia. Employed in the New York office of the Trade Commissioner Service for 12 years, he was appointed Assistant Trade Commissioner in that city in 1944, and was transferred to Washington in 1946 as an Assistant Commercial Secretary in the Canadian Embassy.

ANKARA APPOINTMENT: Appointment of G.F.G. Hughes as Acting Commercial Secretary, attached to the Canadian Embassy in Ankara, was announced October 8 by Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce.

This new post in Turkey brings to 36 the number of countries in which Canadian trade commissioners are located.

Formerly Assistant Trade Commissioner in Glasgow, Mr. Hughes will reach Ankara in the latter part of October.

Canadian trade with Turkey, valued at \$5,000,000 last year, has increased to eight times its pre-war average. With the reduction in business with continental Europe, Turkey has indicated interest in expanding its trade with Canada. Mr. Howe pointed out that in view of this trend, and the desirability of strengthening Canadian business connections with countries participating in the European Recovery Program, it has become advisable for Canadian business and industry to be represented in Turkey.

Born in Sayabec, Quebec, G.F.G. Hughes graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a B.Sc. (Elec. Eng.) degree. He served for five years in the R.C.N.V.R., and was appointed to the Trade Commissioner Service in 1945.

AGREEMENT TERMINATED: The Honourable Douglas Abbott, Minister of Finance, announced October 8 that the Government had now advised the Export-Import Bank of Washington that it would not be making any further drawings on the line of credit arranged with that bank.

The agreement arranged last Autumn provided for a line of credit to Canada of \$300,000,000 to be drawn down at any time during the year 1948. Actual drawings started in March and by June 1st amounted to a total of \$140,000,000. On August 16th the Government of Canada repaid the amount so drawn down out of the proceeds of a \$150,000,000 issue of fifteen-year 3% bonds sold to three United States insurance companies.

The Minister stated that as no further drawings appear to be necessary, the arrangement giving the right to draw up to the end of the year has been terminated as of today's date.

NAVY ESSAY CONTEST: A national essay contest, offering a total of 219 prizes and open to all residents of Canada 18 years of age and under, was announced October 12 by the Navy League of Canada.

The contest is to be conducted in co-operation with the Royal Canadian Navy and among the awards will be trips to Canada's two permanent naval bases.

Subject of the essay is "Our Navy and Seaborne Trade in Our Daily Life." The contest opens October 12 and will close at midnight, December 31, 1948.

Contestants are divided into Senior and Junior groups, the seniors comprising boys and girls of 14 to 18 years inclusive and the juniors of 10 to 13 years, inclusive, as of October 1st, 1948.

To the authors of the essays judged to be the three best in the senior and junior sections in each province will be given gold, silver and bronze medals and the authors of the next seven best essays in each province will receive certificates of merit.

DIAMOND MEDAL

The author of the essay judged to be the best from all Canada will receive the "Navy League Diamond Medal".

Authors of the essays judged to be the best in each province in the junior section will also receive a handsome wrist watch and to the schools which they attend, a suitably inscribed, framed photograph of Canada's largest man-of-war, H.M.C.S. "Magnificent" will be presented.

In addition to their medals, the first-prize winners in the senior section will be given a free trip either to Halifax, in the case of those living east of Winnipeg, or to Esquimalt in the case of those living in Winnipeg or west. The author of the essay judged to be the best from all Canada, in the junior section, and the principal of his or her school will be given the same trip.

Every boy and girl entering the contest will receive a Navy League button.

Essays may be in English or French. They will be judged by a panel of four -- a senior naval officer, an official of the Navy League, a prominent educationist and a prominent literary figure in each province. A special panel of judges, chosen on a national basis, will undertake judging for the winner of the Diamond Medal.

SEEK PPCLI RECRUITS: Army Headquarters announced October 12 that recruits are required immediately to fill the ranks of The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Calgary, Alta.

The famous PPCLI was chosen recently to become the first battalion to be trained as an airborne unit since the war. It is now below strength, and the intention is to bring it up to full strength as soon as possible with husky young Canadians who will volunteer specifically for parachute training. Advertisements outlining the requirements will appear shortly in the daily press.

Recruits who volunteer for paratroop and airborne training must be in perfect health, between 17 and 25 years of age, and not over six feet two inches in height.

The same standards will be required of veterans of the Second World War. However, if they have had previous paratroop training they may be accepted up to the age of 30 years.

Non-veterans will be posted to the Royal Canadian School of Infantry, Camp Borden, Ont., for initial training, while veterans will go direct to the PPCLI in Calgary.

One airborne combat team, comprising an entire company made up of men who volunteer