

Finally, the federation shall be known officially as the "British Caribbean Federation" and its seat of government shall be Trinidad.

### Pro-federative Action

The Rance Report concludes its recommendations by requesting the different committees established following the Montego Bay conference to carry on their work vigorously, without waiting for the realization of the contemplated political union, since, in some cases, there is great need for common and immediate action. This invitation is not directed to the Commission on the Unification of the Public Services, because the latter, which sat from December 1948 until August 1949, under the chairmanship of Sir Maurice Holmes, issued its report at the same time as the Standing Closer Association Committee, on March 10, 1950. The Committee for the Unification of Customs tariffs have also held several meetings, but has not yet submitted any reports. Progress is also being made in the study of several other problems, including the establishment of a single currency and other economic questions.

In the meantime, the legislatures of the different colonies\* have begun to study the recommendations of the Standing Closer Association Committee. So far, the report has, in general, met with a favourable reception. Some colonies have received it with caution, others with enthusiasm. Still others, without being entirely hostile, have rejected some of its recommendations. It will, of course, be necessary to adjust differences and to smooth away many difficulties before an agreement can be reached. The responsibilities of the proposed federation, especially in matters of defence and foreign relations, will be limited, but there is every reason to believe that the plan, if brought into being, will be an outstanding event in the political evolution of the British Caribbean Colonies towards dominion status and, eventually, independence within the Commonwealth.

\* The plan of federation does not include the Bahamas.

### "EXTERNAL AFFAIRS": TWO YEARS OF PUBLICATION

The issue of *External Affairs* for December 1950 completed the second year of the bulletin's publication in printed form. This issue contained an index for Volume I, January-December 1950, listing by titles, and in some instances, by subject matter the articles carried. "Canadian Representation at International Conferences" and similar reference matter which is listed each month or quarter has not been separately noted in this index.

The increasing gravity of the international situation since June 25, 1950, has been reflected in a corresponding emphasis in *External Affairs* on articles of a topical nature. "The Korean Crisis" has been a feature of each issue since July, and the December issue provided full official texts of the two important statements of policy made by Mr. Pearson on December 4 and 5.

That *External Affairs* is serving a useful purpose is suggested by the fact that its monthly circulation has been maintained at about nine thousand copies for more than a year. It is the hope of the Department that, as the continuing pressure of events stimulates interest among Canadians in international relations, this figure, which includes both the French and English editions, will increase in the months to come.