

Trade Commissioner. At 7.45 a.m. the next day, the Mission drove out into the country to inspect the government operated sugar mill, which with additions now being completed, will be the largest sugar refinery in the world. The mill is modern, clean and efficient throughout, and is a great credit to the country.

Returning to Ciudad Trujillo at 9.30 a.m. the Mission placed a wreath at the tomb of the Liberator of the Republic, visited the President of the Republic, and then departed for Haiti at 10.30 a.m.

Haiti

Arrival 12 noon. After visiting the President of the Republic, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Minister of Foreign Relations, the Mission was tendered a delightful and most ample Luncheon at the Sans Souci Hotel, by the business and financial community of Haiti. A speech in French was made on this occasion by Mr. Jean-Marie Bonin. Mr. Bonin's presentation was received with interest and warmly applauded. After the luncheon the Mission was shown one of the attractive new mountain-side hotels, and visited the mountain-side residence of the Minister of Foreign Relations, and departed at 5 p.m. for Havana, Cuba.

This particular 24 hr. itinerary (5.45 arrival Ciudad Trujillo — 5 p.m. departure Haiti) was perhaps a little more strenuous than the general run of itineraries of the Mission, but not a great deal more so.

Cuba

The Mission was received at a most pleasant interview by President Batista of Cuba, who spoke to us in English. He was keenly interested in the development of closer relations between Cuba and Canada, as were the various ministers, commercial and industrial groups with whom we conferred over the next three days. Our two-way trade with Cuba is substantial. The Royal Bank of Canada gave a Luncheon at the Havana Tennis Club, attended by over 150 guests. From Cuba the Mission flew to Mexico, arriving on the afternoon of February 5, which was a legal holiday.

Mexico

The Mission was conducted by motor cycle escort to its headquarters in the Reforma Hotel, which incidentally is managed by a former Montrealer, Mr. Ray Frappier, who headed the LaSalle Hotel in Montreal for many years. Needless to say, Mr. Frappier gave the utmost attention and consideration to the Mission.

Our programme in Mexico was particularly active and effective. Interesting meetings and discussions were held with the Bank of Mexico, the Chamber of Commerce (which wishes a special liaison committee with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce), the Association of Importers and Exporters, and with leading Government ministries and other business groups. President Ruiz Cortines received the Mission and showed the same keen interest in its visit and activities as displayed by business and industry. Most Mission business men found new or continued active interest in their lines in Mexico, and made arrangements for expanded effort. Means to a direct west coast shipping service between Canada and Mexico were discussed. Mexico is also much interested in direct air connections with Canada.