

Because requirements for pilots in the R.C.N. came at a time when the Canadian services were in a state of reorganization, training was provided in the United Kingdom, where facilities were readily made available.

They commenced their flying training in England in February, 1946, and after a year with the R.A.F. at Perth and Church Lawford they received their wings. Courses with the Royal Navy, including operational flying training, instrument flying and deck landing training, followed, fitting the Canadian officers for aircraft carrier pilots duties and flying under all conditions. They completed their courses in October and returned to Canada in November.

The officers are: Lieutenants (P) Robert A. Shimmin of Vancouver, B.C.; John B. Young of Vancouver; Hugh C. Walls of Vancouver and Winnipeg; Robert W.J. Cocks of Victoria, B.C.; Michael A. Considine of Duncan, B.C.; William J. Spencer of Seaforth and Trenton, Ont.; and Edmund G. Gigg of North Bay, Ont.

COMMANDS NEW DESTROYER: In a recent shuffle of East Coast Naval Officers, Canada's latest Tribal class destroyer Athabaskan, now nearing completion in Halifax shipyards, will receive its first commanding officer and two other ships of the Royal Canadian Navy will change commanding officers.

In command of Canada's new Tribal class destroyer, Athabaskan, will be Lieutenant Commander James Sinclair Davis, R.C.N., of Oakville, Ont., who relinquished his appointment as Staff Officer, Ships in Reserve, to Lieutenant Commander Breen Phillip Young, of Halifax, N.S. This appointment of SOSR also carries with it command of the reserve depot ship H.M.C.S. Iroquois. Taking over the captaincy of H.M.C.S. New Liskeard, Lieutenant Commander Young's former ship, will be Lieutenant Ian Bernard Buchannan Morrow, R.C.N., of Halifax, N.S.

SPECIAL PAY FOR WEATHER SHIP: While their ship is at sea north of 50 degrees North latitude, the 77 officers and men manning the Royal Canadian Navy's weather ship, St. Stephen, will receive a special allowance in pay, Naval Service Headquarters announce. This allowance is in line with the special compensation paid by the Army and Air Force to their personnel stationed in isolated, northern outposts.

The allowance is \$31.67 a month for each man, irrespective of rank or rating. The basic idea of this special pay is to provide some concrete return to the naval crew of St. Stephen while they maintain their lonely vigil at the entrance to Davis Strait.

H.M.C.S. St. Stephen sailed from Halifax, N.S., for her station in Davis Strait, midway between the southern tip of Greenland and Labrador, on November 22. It is expected that this naval frigate will be on weather station

duties for 21 days duration at a time. Positioned as she is in the path of the freezing Labrador current, every effort is being made to alleviate the strain on the ship's company. This added boost to the seamen's pay cheque will be welcome to the men of the St. Stephen.

OMINOUS PORTENTS IN EUROPE

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT: Prime Minister Mackenzie King arrived at Hoboken, N.J. from Europe, December 2. In a statement to the Press, he said the cloud of uncertainty over Europe had of late become charged with ominous portents. There can be no doubt, he added, that the situation in Europe has become much more serious than most people have begun to realize.

The Prime Minister's statement follows: When I arrive in Ottawa on Thursday, it will be exactly five weeks from the day I left. In that time, I will have visited no less than five countries: United States, France, Belgium, Holland and the United Kingdom--in all of which I have had the privilege of meeting with many of those who are best informed on public affairs; but the views of all of whom were necessarily expressed with considerable caution and reserve.

As I travelled by ship, both to and from the United Kingdom, the actual time possible for studying conditions was reduced almost to a period of three weeks. However, the exceptional nature of the opportunities afforded to meet with leading personages in the several countries was such as to make possible the gaining of more in the way of informed opinion in that short time, than would have been feasible under other circumstances.

The purpose of my trip was, of course, to be present as the representative of Canada at the marriage of Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth to Lieut. Philip Mountbatten, the present Duke of Edinburgh. To accounts of this historic event, one could add nothing of significance to what is already familiar to readers of the press.

A WELCOME INTERLUDE

I might perhaps, in a purely personal way, say that I believe the marriage to be one of the happiest possible, so far as the Royal couple are concerned, and an exceedingly fortunate marriage in its relation to the nations of the British Commonwealth.

There can be no doubt that the Royal wedding with its notes of joy and color afforded to the people of the United Kingdom a welcome interlude in a long period of monotony and austerity. For a day at least, it looked as if domestic happiness and national rejoicing was once more the lot of a people who have suffered heroically though terribly over many years. The wedding celebrations seemed almost prophetic of a new dawn about to break at last.

With this thought in mind, and having also

in mind the spirit of the British people as I witnessed it in the course of that eventful week, I could, as I said on leaving Britain, have gone on my way rejoicing at the prospect of all being well in the end, had that promise of a brighter day not been over-shadowed by the cloud of uncertainty which has been hovering over Europe for some time past, and which, of late, has become charged with ominous portents.

There can be no doubt that the situation in Europe has become much more serious than most people have begun to realize.

WORLD-WIDE UNREST

The condition of the world today is such that the incipient civil strife in France, in Italy and in Palestine and other countries that might be named, may be said to be but symptomatic of an unrest which is world-wide; and which, unless the greatest caution and wisdom is exercised, may sooner or later menace anew the well-being of mankind. I am, I trust, not an alarmist, but I have seen hidden forces menace the security of nations in the recent past, and have been more or less behind the scenes ever since. In too many directions the parallels between conditions as they were some years ago, and as we know them today, are becoming all too apparent.

It is, I believe, not too much to say that the present meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London is of greater importance to the world than the combined conferences and meetings which have been held since the termination of hostilities. If it becomes apparent at the meetings of the council that on the part of all the powers there represented goodwill rather than ill-will is to be the path along which the problems before the council are to be solved, all will be well. If, however, the contrary should be the case, and more in the way of frustration be experienced, I believe it is difficult to say to what pass matters might come at any moment.

It is clear that, in her present distress, Western Europe is looking to America with a hope only second to that which she manifested during the years of war. The immediate aid already largely assured under the Marshall Plan may enable her peoples to face again the hardships of another winter. The promise of continued assistance toward recovery will help to serve the larger need. Without aid, however, such have conditions become that the people may despair. The impression above all which one gains, at this time, is that this is indeed one world, and that if nations are to save themselves from the appalling consequences of continuous discontent, their salvation will only be found in the salvation of other nations. The hope for the world of today lies in closer and more effective co-operation among all free nations to ensure preservation of freedom itself.

CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND: The executive board of the International Children's Emergency Fund has approved an increase of \$196,000

in aid to Greece because of the marked increase in homeless refugee children in that country. The board also elected the following member nations to the programme committee: Australia, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USSR, United States and Peru.

Mrs. D.B. Sinclair of Canada was elected chairman of the programme committee.

(Mrs. Sinclair, who is executive assistant to the Deputy Minister of Welfare, was a member of the Canadian delegation to the second session of UNESCO at Mexico City).

CAPITAL GOODS ADMINISTRATOR: Reconstruction Minister C.D. Howe announces that J.H. Berry, President of War Assets Corporation, would return on loan to the Department of Reconstruction and Supply. Mr. Berry will take charge of the administration of the emergency regulations governing the importation of capital goods.

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION: World production of bread-grains in 1947 is now indicated at 5.8 billion bushels of wheat and 1.5 billion of rye, according to the monthly review of the wheat situation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The wheat crop is currently estimated at about the 1946 level but is four per cent less than the 1935-39 average, while the 1947 rye crop is four per cent above 1946, but only 88 per cent of the 1935-39 average. The record wheat crop in the United States and the anticipated record outturn of the Australian wheat crop now being harvested bring the world total for the year near average, despite much below-average crops in Europe and the Soviet Union.

The European bread-grain crop is about a third below the 1935-39 level, placing most of that continent in a serious food position again this year, since bread constitutes such a large part of the diet and alternative foods are also scarce. European import needs will be greater than during the past season when production, though low, was estimated to be about 25 per cent larger than this year's outturn. While a moderate increase in world grain exports is anticipated this year it will evidently be insufficient to offset the sharp decrease in indigenous production in many deficit areas. Bread rations have already suffered further reductions from their already low levels in a number of European countries.

FEWER BUT BIGGER FARMS: Total number of occupied farms in Manitoba declined from 58,024 in 1941 to 54,448 in 1946, but the proportion and also number of farms over 200 acres increase, according to Prairie Census figures on Manitoba farms released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate area of occupied farm lands in 1946 was 16,872,535 acres, only 0.1 per cent less than in 1941.

Farms over 200 acres in 1946 were 55.3 per cent of the total against 50.3 per cent in 1941.