

**CANADIAN OFFICERS OBSERVERS:** Two senior officers of the Canadian Army -- Col. Dollard Ménard, DSO, and Lt.-Col. M.E.P. (Paul) Gameau -- have been appointed military observers with the United Nations' Commission for India and Pakistan, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on September 22. They left to start their new duties last week-end.

Col. Ménard, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry at Dieppe in August 1942 when he commanded Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal, has been serving since September 1947 as Canadian military attaché to France. He is a former officer of the Royal 22nd Regiment and went overseas with the 2nd Canadian Division in 1940. Prior to that time he had served on attachment to various units of the British Army in India. He also commanded Le Regiment de Hull in the invasion of Kiska, 1943.

Lt.-Col. Gameau served with the Royal 22nd Regiment in the United Kingdom during the early days of the war, then returned to Canada in 1941 to take the staff course at Kingston. Returning to Europe, he took part in the Dieppe raid and was also awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry. Later he served in Sicily and Italy with the Royal 22nd, then returned to Canada in January 1944 and was posted as a Canadian observer to the United States 10th Army in the South Pacific in January 1945. He was present at the capture of Okinawa.

Col. Ménard attended the "École d'État-Major" in Paris from October 1946 to September 1947, and Lt.-Col. Gameau has recently attended the "École Supérieure de Guerre" in Paris.

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**NOVEL LIGHTSHIP:** "A snug little ship" is the way seafarers described the Department of Transport's newly built lightship which sailed from Montreal on September 21 to take her position on the dreaded Lurcher shoal off the coast of Nova Scotia at the entrance to the Bay of Fundy. The lightship, which is only 128 feet long by 30 feet wide, was built at Canadian Vickers Limited shipyard here and turned over to the Department last week.

The new lightship has been designed and constructed so as to be able to hold station on a very stormy location at the entrance of the Bay of Fundy with a minimum amount of pitch, surge and rolling. To meet these requirements many innovations have been included in the construction of the vessel. The wheelhouse has been provided with special watertight doors while the ventilators are of the mushroom type so that the vessel may ride out the worst storms without shipping water. Air conditioned ventilating facilities are provided for 20 air changes per hour throughout the vessel except in the store spaces.

Special comforts of officers and crew are provided inasmuch as the lightship will be required to stay on position for months at a time.

**TO EXPAND POLYMER PLANT:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced on September 20 that a major expansion of the Government's synthetic rubber plant, operated by the Polymer Corporation at Samia, Ontario, had been authorized on the recommendation of the Corporation's Board of Directors. Involving an expenditure of upwards of \$6,600,000, the programme will result in an expansion of between 20 and 25% in productive capacity.

Built in 1942 - 3 to supply vitally needed rubber, the Company has achieved outstanding success in marketing its output. Increased diversification and constant improvement in quality has enabled its products to become increasingly aggressive competitors with crude rubber, while an active sales programme throughout America and Western Europe has developed markets for its entire production.

#### DEMAND EXCEEDS PRODUCTION

Although the plant is currently operating at a rate of approximately 130,000,000 pounds of rubber per year, the high price for crude rubber which has prevailed since early in 1950 and additional military requirements have resulted in a demand for the Company's products, from both domestic and foreign sources, far in excess of the Company's present productive capacity. Since it is anticipated that this demand will continue for an extended period, the Directors feel that an immediate expansion of the Butyl and Copolymer rubber plants, as well as the Styrene and Butadiene units, should be undertaken.

Work will get under way as soon as process engineering and design plans can be completed. It is expected that the expansion of the Butyl and Styrene plants will be completed within eight months and the Butadiene and Copolymer plant extensions within twelve months. Pending completion of the latter unit, the additional styrene output will assist in meeting the increased requirements of the plastics industry in Canada. The \$6,600,000 programme will enable the production of Butyl rubber, used largely for inner tubes and mechanical goods, and Polysar S type rubbers, used largely for tires, wire, cables, and footwear, to be increased to 36,000,000 pounds and 126,000,000 pounds a year, respectively.

"I am pleased to state that no capital advance from the Government will be necessary. The expansion programme will be financed by the Company out of its reserves for depreciation and obsolescence and current earnings," the Minister stated.

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**18 NEW NAVY VESSELS:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced on September 22, that contracts totalling \$43,250,000 have been awarded to Canadian shipbuilding yards for the construction of eighteen vessels required by the Royal Canadian Navy. These vessels will be in addition to contracts, valued at \$28,200,000, placed earlier this year. The