

ing discussions were held on further liberalization of two-way trade, and in the inspection of the industry and commerce of Trinidad.

### *Venezuela*

The Mission flew directly from Port-of-Spain to *Caracas*, and spent five busy days in this capital city of the thriving Venezuelan republic. Venezuela enjoys a very heavy export trade balance with Canada, due to our large imports of petroleum for the eastern seaboard. The republic is quite disposed to purchase more from Canada, and some of the business men of the Mission laid the foundations for rather substantial increases in their shipments to this country, particularly in the fields of powdered milk, pulp and paper, and perhaps spirituous beverages.

### *Maracaibo*

Two nights and one day were spent in this thriving centre of the petroleum industry in Venezuela. A rather full inspection of Shell Oil camps and installations was made. The Mission members were guests at a joint meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, and International Rotary. Individual members laid plans for expanded sales to this booming city and its environs.

### *Colombia*

The Mission flew from Maracaibo to Bogotá, Colombia, where a visit of three days and four nights was made. Colombians were outstanding in their hospitality. The Mission was received by the President of the Republic, and by the Secretary of Foreign Relations, who tendered a delightful Luncheon, attended by leading commercial, industrial and financial groups. Of outstanding interest in Colombia was our visit to the salt mines just outside Bogotá, on January 30, 1953. We were the luncheon guests of the President and Board of Directors of the Bank of the Republic. On this occasion, Mr. Frank L. Marshall presented a speech in Spanish on behalf of the Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe. This presentation gave a complete picture of industrial Canada today, and outlined the great market Canada constitutes for Colombian products, and its equal importance as a source of supply for Colombia. The mention of a recent initial purchase of 1500 tons of rice by Canada on this occasion, drew a warm response of appreciation from Colombian financial and business interests. A mimeographed copy of this speech is attached, together with copy of the *Montreal Star* comments of January 31, 1953.†

The Mission departed from Bogotá at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning, February 1st, reaching Barranquilla at 11 o'clock, where the Mission remained for a luncheon tendered by The Royal Bank, at the beautiful Hotel del Prado. Departure from Barranquilla was made at 3 o'clock for Ciudad Trujillo.

### *Dominican Republic*

This country has progressed very substantially in its production, imports and exports, over the past decade. Canada established a Trade Commissioner's office in the Dominican Republic about a year ago, and two-way trade is developing rapidly with the Dominican Republic. The Mission arrived in Ciudad Trujillo at 5.45 and was entertained at three receptions from 6.15 until midnight. The first two by the cabinet officers of the Republic, and the third, a buffet dinner at the home of the