

FRANCO-CANADIAN TRADE TALKS: The Minister of Trade and Commerce announced on October 19 the successful conclusion of two-day talks in Ottawa between French and Canadian officials on trade and financial matters.

This meeting was decided upon last March following on the conversations which took place in Ottawa at that time between members of the Canadian Government, the French Prime Minister and the French Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance.

The officials examined recent developments in trade and payments between the two countries, and gave particular attention to ways and means of bringing the exchange of goods and services to the highest possible level.

A thorough examination of the potential expansion of traditional French exports was made. Amongst the new possibilities of developing French exports to Canada, emphasis was placed on possible Canadian imports from the French overseas territories, as well as of French capital goods. The prospects for French investment in Canada as well as Canadian investment in the French Union were examined, and it was recognized that such developments in the investment field would have desirable effects both on the balance of payments and the exchange of goods between the two countries. The examination of Canadian and French administrative procedures and commercial practices brought out various means of facilitating trade.

The representatives surveyed the measures taken by the two countries to make their respective products better known, especially through trade fairs. The French officials reviewed their increasing participation in the Canadian International Trade Fair in Toronto, and the steps they are taking to organize a major French trade exhibition in Montreal in 1954.

In the discussions of general economic matters, it was recognized that the removal of existing obstacles to the expansion of international trade and payments is of vital importance to the strength and security of all countries of the free world.

The conversations took place in the most cordial atmosphere. The French delegation was led by M. Bernard Clappier, Director of External Relations of the French Ministry of Economic Affairs. The Chairman of the Canadian delegation was Mr. W. Frederick Bull, Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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COLOMBIAN ENVOY ARRIVES: On October 21 His Excellency Carlos Martinez Aparicio presented to His Excellency the Governor-General his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Colombia to Canada. The ceremony of presentation took place at Government House. Mr. Martinez is the first diplomatic envoy of Colombia to Canada.

FRESH TROOPS IN GERMANY: Three hundred officers and men constituting advance parties from the major units due to join the Canadian Brigade Group in Germany arrived recently in the 1300-year-old city of Soest.

On hand at the station to greet the new arrivals was Brigadier W.A.B. Anderson, a new arrival himself who is to succeed Brigadier J.E.C. Pangman in command of the Brigade on November 24.

Brigadier Anderson has just arrived in Germany and, in the latter part of October, will open his headquarters in the Soest area, from which he will direct the relocation of the Brigade in the new camps.

Major John Berthiaume, officer commanding the draft, said the voyage had been good and the men were anxious to settle in the new camps. The advance parties will take over the new camps and put things in readiness for the arrival of parent units.

Brigadier Anderson said he was impressed by the number of Korea veterans among the group. The three infantry battalions and artillery regiment represented all served in Korea with the 25th Brigade.

The first major unit to arrive in Europe under the present rotation scheme will be the 2nd Battalion PPCLI slated to dock at Rotterdam on October 31. This battalion was also the first Canadian unit to reach Korea having landed in Pusan on December 19, 1950.

Other major drafts will follow approximately one week apart and when the move is completed they will form the newly designated 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade.

With the application of paint and landscaping, the new camps have formed picturesque sights on the German rural countryside. The single-story buildings are cream stucco with green slate roofs. All are completely modern and equipped and furnished to Canadian standards.

There are four major camp areas scattered over a 50-mile stretch in the Mohne Lake district and Iserlohn on the fringe of the Ruhr Valley.

Brigadier Anderson said that plans are going forward rapidly to provide Canadian service clubs for all ranks. Theatres are being built in each camp and the 11 modern NAAFI canteens that will serve the Brigade will be equipped with soda fountains - a luxury not found in British Army canteens.

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Last year motor vehicle registrations in Canada passed the three million mark for the first time, the year's total of 3,155,997 surpassing the 1951 peak of 2,872,420 by 283,577.

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Canadian manufacturers employed a record 1,273,187 persons last year as compared with 1,258,375 in 1951.