

This was the second time Mr. Heisbourg had presented Letters of Credence to a Governor-General of Canada. In January 1959 he presented to the then Governor-General, Vincent Massey, his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Luxembourg to Canada.

The recent decision of the Governments of Luxembourg and Canada to raise their respective Legations to Embassies has now necessitated the presentation of Mr. Heisbourg's credentials as Ambassador.

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LENGTH STANDARD CHANGED

A resolution introduced by the Canadian delegation recommending a new international standard for measuring length was adopted recently in Paris by the eleventh general conference of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. Delegates from 30 countries unanimously agreed that the international standard for the meter should no longer be a metal bar kept in France but should be defined as a specific number of wave-lengths of orange light emitted by the gas krypton.

The Canadian delegation consisted of Dr. L.E. Howlett, National Research Council, and Mr. G. Bertrand, Department of External Affairs.

Dr. Howlett introduced the resolution on behalf of the International Committee on Weights and Measures in his capacity as chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Definition of the Meter.

Since 1952 all Canadian units of length have been defined in terms of the meter. The inch, for example, is defined by law as exactly 254 ten-thousandths of a meter.

CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION

Canadian scientists, notable Dr. K.M. Baird of the National Research Council, have made important contributions towards compiling evidence for adoption of the new standard. The world's only working apparatus using the new standard for directly measuring linear scales was designed and built at NRC by Dr. Baird. Four different copies of the old standard meter bar have already been measured by this instrument. The results reassured the delegates to the general conference of the value of the new standard.

One of the advantages of the new standard is that it can be readily and accurately reproduced anywhere in the world by any well-equipped physics laboratory. Unlike the metal bar, it cannot be destroyed, lost, or affected by changes in temperature or pressure. The new standard is available in all countries and there will be no further need for prolonged comparisons of "standard" bars of metal. The new definition will facilitate accurate linear measurements in many industries.

DELEGATES TO UNESCO

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Green, has announced the composition of the Canadian delegation to the eleventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the Organization's headquarters in Paris from November 14 to December 13, 1960.

The chairman of the delegation will be Mr. Marcel Cadieux, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the representative of the Department on the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO. The vice-chairman will be Mr. H. Russell MacEwan, Member of Parliament for Pictou, Nova Scotia. The other members of the delegation will be: Mr. J-Marcel Bourbonnais, M.P., Terrance-Vaudreuil, P.Q.; Mr. Oakley Dalgleish, editor and publisher, *The Globe and Mail*, Toronto, Ontario; Mr. Pierre Gendron, Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of Ottawa, and National Research Council representative on the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, Ottawa; Major Vincent Price, Past National President, United Nations Association in Canada, Toronto, Ontario; Dr. R.F. Sharp, director and member of executive committee, Canadian Education Association, and superintendent of schools, Vancouver, B.C.; Miss Norma E. Walmsley, Department of Political Science, Brandon College, Brandon, Manitoba.

Mr. Eugène Bussière, Secretary of the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO and Associate Director of the Canada Council, and Mr. Lionel V.J. Roy, Canadian permanent delegate to UNESCO in Paris, will act as advisers to the delegation, together with one or two other advisers drawn from the Department of External Affairs.

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NEW TIE WITH LATIN AMERICA

Canada was welcomed as a member of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History by the Institute's Directing Council at its opening meeting in Mexico City on October 24. The Canadian representative to this meeting was Dr. N.L. Nicholson, Director of the Geographical Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Canada had long been interested in the work of the Institute and had collaborated in several of its research programmes.

Other inter-American organizations to which Canada belongs are the Inter-American Statistical Institute, the Pan-American Radio Office and the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain. Canada has, in addition, sent observers to the meetings of a number of other inter-American organizations, including the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, the Pan-American Health Organization, the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission, and the Inter-American Conference on Agriculture.