

AMBASSADOR FROM MEXICO

The Department of External Affairs has announced that His Excellency Rafael de la Colina presented his Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of Mexico to Canada to His Excellency the Governor General. The ceremony took place at Government House.

Mr. de la Colina, who was born in Tulancingo, Mexico, in 1898, joined the Mexican Foreign Service in 1918. He has been Ambassador of Mexico to the United States and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations.

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SHOPPING CENTRES

Shopping centres increased sharply in number and in size of operations in the 12 months of 1957 when the number rose to 91 from 64 in 1956 and sales to \$356,555,849 from \$235,928,222, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual report on retail trade for 1957. Data on this subject appears for the first time in this issue and was first published in reference paper number 87 covering the year 1956.

Number of stores located in these shopping centres rose in 1957 to 1,289 from 898 in 1956, of which 715 were independents versus 520, and 574 were chains versus 378. Sales of independent stores rose in total to \$129,813,295 from \$94,488,562, and of chains to \$226,742,554 from \$143,538,476.

Excluding from total retail sales such trades as motor vehicle dealers, lumber and building material dealers, and farm implement dealers, which are not represented in shopping centres, sales made by retail stores located in these areas represented 3.6 per cent of estimated total retail sales in Canada in 1957 as compared with 2.6 per cent in 1956.

The net addition of the 27 shopping centres during 1957 accounted for \$49,673,603 or 41.2 per cent of the increase in the year's sales volume. The remainder of this increase (\$70,954,024) was due to both the growth in the number of retail establishments within the shopping centres in existence prior to 1957, and the increase in sales of those retail firms in business during 1956.

Shopping centres are now located in six provinces of Canada, Saskatchewan being the latest to be added to the list. Ontario had by far the largest number at 57 versus 41 in 1956, Quebec following with 15 versus 10, Alberta 8 versus 7, British Columbia 7 versus 5, Nova Scotia 2 versus 1, and Saskatchewan 2 versus nil. Sales of shopping centres located in Ontario in 1957 amounted to \$226,090,485 (5.5 per cent of total retail sales); Quebec, \$74,678,744 (2.8 per cent) and the Atlantic Provinces, Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, \$55,786,620 (1.8 per cent).

All trades represented in shopping centres experienced a growth in sales volume in 1957 from the preceding year with family clothing stores, other food and beverage stores, and furniture, appliance and radio stores registering the largest percentage increases.

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ESKIMOS AT STRATFORD

The Stratford Festival will feature a unique and essentially Canadian display this summer, when it houses two Eskimo carvers and their igloo in the Festival Arena during the twelve week Festival season. Along with the sculptors, who will be at work on soapstone carvings under public gaze, will be samples of Eskimo sculpture and art work - "the most comprehensive and representative collection ever yet shown in North America" according to Department of Northern Affairs officials through whose co-operation the exhibit is being shown at Stratford.

Besides art work, there will be a display of Eskimo clothing, toys, domestic articles and weapons, such as harpoons, knives and other hunting implements. These will be accompanied by pictorial illustrations of the Eskimo way of life and an igloo constructed of styrofoam. A 10,000 square foot area has been set aside for the display. The Exhibit will be staffed by personnel from the Department of Northern Affairs who will act as lecturers and interpreters. The project, sponsored by the Department, has been made possible through funds from the Canada Council.

The display will be open in the Festival Arena on the River Drive every Monday through Saturday from ten a.m. to eight p.m. with an Admission Charge of 50¢.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

Industrial employment declined less than usual from December to January this winter, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' monthly survey. Data supplied by establishments covered in the monthly survey suggests that the underlying employment situation in a number of industries has improved in recent months. For example, employment in trade declined less from December to January this winter than in the winters of 1956-57 and 1957-58, and the relatively small size of the decline was a factor in the rise in the adjusted composite index between the two months. However, a large part of the rise in the index which occurred in the two-month period ending in January was caused by the return of workers previously engaged in industrial disputes.

Although the decline in trade following the end of the Christmas rush period was smaller than usual, it was the main factor in the seasonal reduction in the unadjusted composite index from December to January. Employ-

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