

MEDICAL TEAM TO MALAYA

It was announced on October 31 that Canada had sent a six-member medical team to Malaya under the Colombo Plan for a period of five years. The team, assembled in Malaya on October 29, is based at the State Hospital in Penang. Its members are: Dr. J.D. Hermann, Ottawa (surgeon and team leader); Dr. Claude Vipond, Oshawa, Ontario, (surgeon); Dr. Guy Screech, Vancouver, British Columbia, (anaesthetist); Dr. George Sloan, St. Thomas, Ontario, (general duties); Dr. Donald McLean, Winnipeg, Manitoba, (general duties); Mrs. Margaret J. McSweyn, Vancouver, British Columbia, (operating theatre nurse).

This project stems from a request by the Government of Malaya for Canadian assistance in meeting an acute shortage of doctors in the rural areas of Malaya. In response to this request, Dr. J.D. Hermann, a prominent Ottawa surgeon, was sent to Malaya to make an "on-the-spot" investigation and suggest what Canada might most usefully do to help Malaya in the medical field. As a result of Dr. Hermann's report, an offer to send a Canadian medical teaching team was made to Malaya and accepted. With the enthusiastic co-operation of the deans of medical schools across Canada, a team of well-qualified Canadian doctors was recruited.

The main function of the Canadian team will be to help train Malayan doctors in modern medical skills and techniques. The Canadian doctors will conduct "in-service" training and seminars at the State Hospital in Penang and also at outlying hospitals where suitable arrangements can be made. While Canada has undertaken to maintain the team as a whole for a period of five years, it is expected that individual members will be replaced from time to time by other Canadian doctors.

INCREASED TRAINING ALLOWANCES

Mr. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour, recently expressed hope that increased training allowances would be available to unemployed persons taking federal-provincial training through a new schedule of maximum training allowances now being suggested to the provinces.

Though the initiative for the payment of training allowances, over and above that obtainable through the receipt of unemployment insurance benefits, is the prerogative of the provinces, the Minister was hopeful that increased allowances might be forthcoming to encourage participation in training by unemployed workers, particularly married men forced to take training in centres other than where they normally lived. Mr. Starr said that several provinces has recently expressed an interest in increasing their scales of living allowances for trainees, since they felt that current scales were preventing some from taking advantage of the courses offered.

NEW ALLOWANCE SCHEDULES

Under federal-provincial agreements, the Federal Government contributes 75 per cent of the cost of unemployed training initiated by the provinces, and

of training allowances for unemployed trainees recommended by the province. Mr. Starr revealed that he had offered the following new schedule of maximum training allowances to which the Federal Government contribution would apply. Married trainee living away from home - \$50.00 a week; married trainee living at home - \$35.00 a week; single trainee living away from home - \$30.00 a week; single trainee living at home - \$15.00 a week.

These allowances can be paid where a worker is not in receipt of unemployment insurance or where unemployment-insurance benefits are not deemed sufficient. In the latter case the unemployment-insurance benefits, where these are less than the level of the appropriate training allowance established, may be augmented up to the maximum amounts indicated. In all cases the amount and extent of these allowances are determined by the province.

The Minister reported that, since the Federal Government had offered to pay 75 per cent of the cost of this training, provided a minimum number of training days are reached in the province concerned, the number of unemployed receiving training in Canada had doubled. He expressed the hope that a further substantial increase might take place over the coming months.

FLYERS FOR THE NAVY

Twenty four sub-lieutenants of the Royal Canadian Navy have been awarded their pilots' wings after successfully completing the first phase of their flying training at the Royal Canadian Air Force station, Saskatoon. They will now take an intensive course, which includes advanced flying training for conversion to "Tracker" anti-submarine aircraft and to helicopters, to bring them up to second-pilot standards. Other elements of the course are survival, anti-submarine warfare and maritime warfare.

Ten of the officers have been appointed to VU-33, the utility air squadron at Patricia Bay, near Victoria, British Columbia. The remainder have been appointed to HMCS "Shearwater", at the RCN air station near Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, for VU-32 utility air squadron, and HU-21 utility helicopter squadron.

LABOUR INCOME IN AUGUST

Canada's paid workers received an estimated \$1,663 million in August in the form of salaries and wages and supplementary labour income, an increase of 0.7 per cent over \$1,652 million in July and of 4.5 per cent over \$1,592 million in August 1960, according to advance figures that will be contained in the August issue of the DBS "Estimates of Labour Income". Labour income in the January-August period amounted to \$12,610 million, larger by 3.4 per cent than last year's corresponding total of \$12,190 million.