

REHAB COUNCIL FOR DISABLED

Mr. Starr, Minister of Labour, recently announced the appointment of a 25-member National Advisory Council on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons. The Council was appointed by order-in-council on the recommendation of Mr. Starr and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Waldo Monteith. The function of the Council is to advise the Minister of Labour on any matter he may refer to it that concerns the development of vocational rehabilitation services or on any other subject affecting the rehabilitation of disabled persons that the Council sees fit to consider. It will hold its first meeting in Ottawa on May 14 and 15.

The Council represents provincial governments, voluntary agencies, the medical profession, the universities, organized employers, organized workers and Federal Government departments. Members are appointed for three years.

CANADIAN SILVER FOR MUSEUM

Some rare items by early Canadian silversmiths have been acquired by the National Museum of Canada. "These important acquisitions" states Resources Minister Walter Dinsdale "are in keeping with the policy to make the National Museum a treasure house of the best of Canadian traditional crafts".

Museum experts visited many areas throughout the country before acquiring these pieces, which include some of the finest examples of the work of eighteenth and early nineteenth century silversmiths of French Canada.

Canadian silvercraft dates back to the close of the seventeenth century; the workmanship of the present collection is comparable to that of the finest silversmiths of other countries at that period. A school of artisans developed in French Canada, although they worked without any intention of organization. Colonies of silversmiths grew up at Quebec, Montreal and Trois Rivières.

In the early stages of Canadian silvercraft, the smiths depended for their supply of metal on the big silver dollars that were in circulation. The first silversmiths came from France and by 1800 some of them were employing Canadian-born apprentices. At the close of the French regime, the silversmith's craft was well established in Quebec. Toward the end of the nineteenth century artisans began to lose contact with the public and to work for a few large dealers. Quebec silver established a reputation for thinness and brightness that has never been rivalled in North America. It was only when modern techniques such as die-stamping and spinning were adopted that the number of artisans skilled in the traditional methods began to dwindle.

The national collection contains pieces that represent the art of the silversmith from the earliest period, when articles were made exclusively for the Church, and the later period, when Quebec merchants, enriched by the fur trade, bought sets of silver. A delicate silver crucifix measuring about 36 inches, executed by the eighteenth-century Quebec master

Francois Ranyoyze, is one of the highlights of the collection. Also included are works by Ranyoyze's famous apprentice, Jean Amiot. There are also a number of other handsome ecclesiastical pieces, and pieces of table silver.

VEHICLE ENTRIES

Permits issued to foreign vehicles entering Canada in March increased 8.2 per cent to 329,171 from 304,275 a year earlier. Permits issued in the January-March period rose 1.0 per cent to 814,503 from 806,063 in the same quarter of 1961.

Travellers' vehicle permits issued in March were: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 54 (72 in March 1961); New Brunswick, 22,844 (16,860); Quebec, 34,285 (31,546); Ontario, 242,590 (225,003); Manitoba, 4,006 (4,920); Saskatchewan, 1,800 (2,225); Alberta, 1,205 (1,415); British Columbia, 21,969 (21,807); and the Yukon Territory, 418 (427).

January-March totals were: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 150 (155 a year ago); New Brunswick, 57,132 (45,275); Quebec, 83,659 (81,973); Ontario, 594,943 (599,110), Manitoba 11,708 (14,626); Saskatchewan, 4,811 (5,700); Alberta, 2,868 (3,661); British Columbia, 58,183 (54,500); and the Yukon Territory, 1,049 (1,063).

DR. PETT TO FAO COMMISSION

A request by Jamaica to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for an expert to evaluate its food and nutrition programmes has taken Dr. L.B. Pett, Head of Research Development for Canada's Department of National Health and Welfare, to the Caribbean until the end of June.

The Canadian Government has made Dr. Pett's service available to FAO on several previous occasions. Original chief of the federal Nutrition Division, he has played a prominent part as a member of other international commissions.

Jamaica has several programmes for improved food and nutrition, directed by the Department of Health, Agriculture and Education, as well as by the Jamaican Social Welfare Commission. The request to FAO was for a one-man commission to review and evaluate these programmes and to suggest measures for their co-ordination and improvement. Jamaica sets considerable store by its nutrition work, which falls directly under the Prime Minister.

JOB PLACEMENT

Placements made by the National Employment Service during the first three months of 1962 continued to exceed those during corresponding periods for every year since 1945, according to a statement issued by Mr. Laval Fortier, Chief Commissioner of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

There were 224,934 persons placed in employment by the NES across Canada during the first quarter of this year, an increase of 24.3 per cent over the 180,957 placements in the same period of 1961. The in-

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