

JAPANESE FARM TRAINEES: Two Japanese farm trainees under Japanese Government sponsorship are taking part in a farm training programme in Canada arranged by the Canadian and Japanese Governments.

The training programme is arranged in such a way as to provide these Japanese farmers with information and experience in certain areas of agriculture which, it is hoped, will be of assistance to them.

The two trainees, Mr. Shintaro Honma of Niitsu and Mr. Fumio Tanaka of Shimonoseki, spent a few days in Ottawa taking part in a preliminary orientation programme which was organized by the various government departments interested in this scheme to familiarize them with Canadian habits and customs and to provide them with an outline of Canadian Government agricultural policy.

Following this briefing session they proceeded to farming assignments in Ontario, arranged for them by the Department of Agriculture of that province in co-operation with the Federal Government Department. The trainees will work on these farms subject to the same conditions as would apply to Canadian Agricultural workers to acquire first-hand knowledge of Canadian farming techniques which may prove useful when they return to Japan. At the conclusion of the farming season in November they will attend Ridgeway Agricultural School near Chatham, Ontario, for the normal winter term of studies and upon conclusion of this "academic" part of the programme in April they will return to Japan.

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TRANS-ATLANTIC CABLE: Agreement in principle that a new submarine cable to provide extended telephone and telex services across the Atlantic Ocean was reached by officials of the Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom who met in Ottawa with representatives of Cable and Wireless Limited and Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation.

The first telephone cable between the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States was opened for service in September, 1956. Although the cable represented a most notable advance in trans-Atlantic telephone communications, the maximum capacity that could be provided on the cable was limited for technical reasons.

The high quality of the service has led to a greatly increased volume of traffic. In fact, telephone traffic between Canada and the United Kingdom has trebled in six months.

Since the existing trans-Atlantic cable was planned, advances in techniques will enable future cables to have greater capacity.

With the rapid economic development of Canada, the prospect is that traffic will continue to grow rapidly. Interim measures were explored with the object of meeting the immediate situation. It was agreed, in principle, by the officials that a new submarine

cable, incorporating techniques at present under development, should be provided as quickly as possible between Canada and the United Kingdom. This would accommodate many more circuits than any existing cable of comparable length.

Provisional plans to this end were agreed in the discussions for further consideration by the two Governments concerned. The new cable could be an important link in the Commonwealth system as a whole and the next step will be discussions with other Commonwealth countries. It is expected that the new cable could be completed by 1961 as a joint undertaking by Cable and Wireless Limited and Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation.

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WHO DELEGATES: Canada's delegation to the Tenth World Health Assembly, meeting in Geneva on May 7, will be headed by Dr. P.E. Moore, Director of Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Alternate delegates will be Dr. Renaud Lemieux, of Quebec, President of the Canadian Medical Association; Dr. A. Somerville, deputy minister of Public Health, of Alberta; M. Wershof, Canadian Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, Geneva, and M.G. Clark, Financial Adviser to the Canadian Permanent Mission, Geneva.

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EXPORT INSURANCE: The year 1956 witnessed the largest annual volume of business insured by the Export Credits Insurance Corporation--\$54,777,665--according to the Corporation's annual report tabled in the House of Commons by the Right Hon. C.D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce.

The Report of this Crown Company showed its increasing importance in assisting Canadian exporters to compete in the world's markets and revealed that since issuing its first policy in 1945 the Corporation had insured \$376 million of Canadian exports. Claims paid to Canadian exporters during 1956 totalled \$1,564,968 arising mainly from delays in payment due to exchange transfer difficulties in certain countries. Since commencement of operations the Corporation has paid to Canadian exporters a total of \$7,821,612 and of this sum \$3,335,359 has not been collected but the bulk is fully covered by deposits of local currency with banks abroad.

The result of the operations of this Crown Company for the year showed an excess of claims and expenses over premiums and interest amounting to \$814,850. The underwriting reserve now stands at \$1,418,103.

There were 198 policies current at the year end covering exports of a wide variety of products to some 80 different countries. Liabilities under these Policies totalled \$48,601,024.