

(C.W.B. April 8, 1949)

the horizon from "Magnificent's" decks, indicating the spirited "battle" in progress. Action by "Jamaica" and the destroyers was successful in warding off a direct assault on the convoy and the "enemy" cruisers retired, considering themselves too badly mauled to attack again.

Submarine attack by H.M.S. "Tudor" was expected by dawn, March 31, but the British sub held her hand until late morning when, apparently unable to penetrate through the screening destroyers and frigates, she fired smoke candles to the surface to simulate torpedoes fired at long range.

NAVY WELCOMES NEWFOUNDLAND: Newfoundland was officially welcomed into the Dominion Friday, April 1 by the combined Pacific and Atlantic Coast squadrons of the R.C.N. at sea. With all ships dressed with Canadian blue ensigns at the jackstaff forward and white ensigns flying at foremasts, mainmasts and at ensign staffs aft, a 15-gun salute boomed out from the 18,000-ton aircraft carrier "Magnificent" to observe the entry of the tenth province.

It was a day of ceremonies for the Canadian ships. Following the 15-gun salute to the Province of Newfoundland, Commodore G.R. Miles, O.B.E., R.C.N., Commanding Officer of "Magnificent" and Senior Canadian Naval Officer Afloat, paid a visit to the cruiser "Ontario", the destroyer "Athabaskan" and frigate "Antigonish" before the three ships from the Pacific Coast were detached for their voyage back through the Panama Canal and up to Esquimalt, B.C.

When Commodore Miles was returned on board "Magnificent" by seaboat, the saluting cannon aboard the "Ontario" fired an 11-gun salute. The salute was returned by "Magnificent". Then the Pacific Coast squadron turned on a southerly course for Panama and "Magnificent" and her escorting destroyers started north to Bermuda, a few hundred miles away.

CADET COLLEGES: Copies of an illustrated prospectus outlining admission requirements for entry into the Joint Services Cadet Colleges - the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ont., and HMCS Royal Roads near Victoria, B.C., - are available on request to High Schools, cadet clubs and other organizations or interested individuals. Service authorities pointed out this week.

In addition to general information regarding the two Colleges, the folder outlines fees and allowances, qualifications on graduation, the military obligation of officer cadets, the method of selecting candidates, and the various courses offered.

Application for admission to the Colleges this year should be made not later than April 30.

GENEVA CONFERENCE: The Department of External Affairs announced on April 6 that Emile Vaillancourt, Canadian Minister to Yugoslavia, will head a Canadian Delegation to the Diplomatic Conference for the Completion of New International Conventions for the Protection of Victims of War. The Conference, which has been convoked by the Government of Switzerland and which will last approximately six weeks, will open in Geneva on April 21.

Convocation of the formal Diplomatic Conference is a consequence of negotiations between representatives of 49 Governments and 51 National Red Cross Societies who met at the 17th International Red Cross Conference in Stockholm last August to discuss revisions of the 1929 Geneva Conventions relative to the treatment of prisoners of war and of the 1907 Hague Conventions relative to maritime warfare. The need to revise these conventions became apparent during the last war when many of their provisions, particularly those dealing with the treatment of prisoners of war, were found to be either ambiguous or difficult to apply uniformly.

IMPORTANT TASK

Perhaps the most important task of the Geneva Conference will be to obtain, through international treaty, effective protection for certain categories of civilians in belligerent and occupied territories. The nature of modern warfare, inevitably involving large sections of the civilian population, has made clear the need for a separate convention defining the treatment to be accorded to noncombatants who perform essential civilian services (e.g. the maintenance of public utilities and of health services in areas of conflict).

In addition to Mr. Vaillancourt, the Canadian Delegation will be composed as follows: M.H. Wershof, Counsellor, Office of the Canadian High Commissioner, London, as Alternate Head;

Col. J.N.B. Crawford, Directorate General of Medical Services, Department of National Defence, Ottawa, and Maj. W.B. Armstrong, Adjutant General's Branch, Department of National Defence, Ottawa, as Full Delegates; Capt. J.W. Kerr, Supervisor of Nautical Services, Department of Transport, Ottawa, and

Dr. E.A. Watkinson, Industrial Health Division, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa, as Advisers.

ARMED FORCES COMMISSIONS: Commissions in the active forces of the navy, army and air force are again being offered this year to selected university students, veterans of the Second World War, who will be entering their final university year in September.

The plan was introduced successfully last year. Its continuation into the 1949-50 uni-

versity term was announced on April 5 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

Last year the army commissioned 119 student veterans under this arrangement, the navy 15, and the air force 72. This year the army will accept up to 75, the navy 30, and the air force 75.

Under the arrangement, student veterans due to graduate in 1950, and having good war records as well as high technical qualifications, will receive permanent force commissions at the beginning of their final university year, that is, in September 1949. The Department of National Defence will pay for their tuition and necessary books and equipment and also pay them the full pay and allowances of a sub-lieutenant, 2nd lieutenant, or pilot officer.

Any veteran, regardless of the branch of the armed forces in which he formerly served, is eligible under the plan for a commission in one of the three services, provided he has the qualifications. He must be a veteran of the Second World War, be within the age limit, possess the necessary physical qualifications for the particular corps or service, and also be in good academic standing.

In the navy, candidates may apply for the engineering, ordnance, constructor, electrical supply, instructor, medical or special branches. Army applicants may be accepted by the engineers, signals, medicals, dentists, electrical and mechanical engineers. The air force will grant commissions in the technical and specialist lists.

CANADA'S LONDON EXHIBIT: "Canadians as Consumers" ... will be the theme of Canada's exhibit at the British Industries Fair, to be held in London from May 2 to 13. Members of the Senate, the House of Commons, the Press Gallery, and government officials on April 6 attended a preview of the display at the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission, where the exhibit was designed and constructed. The Canadian exhibit will shortly be packed for shipment to the British Industries Fair, where it will occupy about 1350 square feet of space in Earl's Court, in the British Commonwealth and Empire Section.

Highlight of the exhibit is the eye-catching interpretation of the flow of consumer goods from Britain to Canada. Descending by parachutes from an overhead map of the United Kingdom to Canada below, are representative models of the many products imported from the British Isles. Machinery, automobiles, coal, whiskey, books, leather goods, cottons, woollens, and chinaware are all depicted in the flow of trade from Britain to Canada.

Four wall panels are designed to promote increased sales of British goods to Canada by illustrating the nature of the Canadian market. Here a technical trade story is simply explained with humorous cartoons and three dimensional panels. Covering three periods in

the growth of the nation - 1890, 1920 and the present, the development and nature of Canadian industry, labour, income and trade are illustrated. The business opportunities offered by the second Canadian International Trade Fair, to be held in Toronto from May 30 to June 10, are also indicated.

Other sections of the exhibit illustrate the buying habits of Canadians and the consumer requirements in different parts of the country are pointed out. The advantages of Canada as a site for British branch industries are emphasized by displays of the plentiful raw materials, skilled labour, low-cost water-power and high purchasing power which Canada offers.

NEW NAVY UNIFORMS: Improved style, comfort and practicability are features of new uniforms designed for both officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy, details of which were announced on April 8 by Naval Headquarters.

Major change is the introduction of a khaki uniform for Chief Petty Officers, First and Second Class, and Petty Officers, First Class. This will be worn during the summer months in Canada and in the tropics, and will replace, except for ceremonial occasions, the white uniform (tunic and trousers) formerly worn by these men.

The seaman's jumper, in both the blue uniform and summer whites, will be modified to include a front opening with concealed zipper closure and "hung" sleeves which provide a better fit across shoulders and chest.

Tropical uniform (white shorts, open-neck shirts or tropical vests, and stockings) has been abolished, and in its place officers will wear khaki shorts and shirts. Men will be issued with blue denim shorts, to provide a working dress for tropical use.

Officer's khaki uniforms, which have been in use for several years, will be altered slightly in pattern.

Both summer and winter uniforms in the new styles will be tailored from material especially chosen to meet the specific requirements of each type of dress.

New khaki uniforms for both officers and men will be made from light-weight wool rayon, a material similar to tropical worsted. They will be worn with khaki shirt and black tie, socks and shoes. Officers' rank will be denoted by shoulder straps. Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers will wear rating and branch badges in red. Under appropriate circumstances, this uniform may be worn without jacket and tie.

Seamen's dress uniforms in the new style will be tailored in a Botany serge, a material now in use in one form or another, in all three services.

Summer uniforms of white duck worn by men below the rating of Petty Officer First Class in future will be made of white drill and the jumper will include the front opening and new sleeve style as in the blue uniform.