

ICAO APPOINTMENT

The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization announced on December 17 the appointment of Mr. Ronald M. Macdonnell, Deputy Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, as Secretary-General of ICAO. The appointment is for a term of five years. Mr. Macdonnell will assume his post after the conclusion of the twelfth session of the ICAO Assembly, which will be held in San Diego, U.S.A., next June. The Secretary-General of ICAO is the chief executive officer of the Organization, a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, whose membership consists of 73 sovereign states.

Mr. Macdonnell's last foreign service post was that of Ambassador of Canada to the United Arab Republic. He had previously served as Minister to France and in other positions in Washington, Moscow and Prague. He attended the Conference on International Civil Aviation held in Chicago in 1944 which gave birth to ICAO, and for a five-year period he supervised civil aviation policy work in the Department of External Affairs. In 1954 he set up the Canadian part of the International Supervisory Commissions in Vietnam and Cambodia and served as first Canadian Commissioner.

Mr. Macdonnell succeeds Mr. Carl Ljungberg of Sweden, who is retiring next summer after serving as ICAO Secretary-General for seven years.

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NEW STAMPS FOR 1959

Mr. William Hamilton, Postmaster General, has announced the subjects of six postage stamps to be issued by the Post Office Department during the calendar year 1959. At the same time he stated that other subjects may be selected during the year.

On the 23rd February, a special postage stamp will be issued to commemorate the golden anniversary of the first flight of a powered machine in Canada, the "Silver Dart". The pilot of this machine was Mr. J.A.D. McCurdy. The flight took place over the ice of Bras d'Or Lakes near Baddeck, Nova Scotia. The Post Office Department joins with the rest of Canada in saluting the achievements of the early pioneers of aviation.

The tenth anniversary of the founding of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will be celebrated on the 4th April and Canada will join other member countries in honouring this event by issuing a commemorative postage stamp. This international organization of governments is an important part of the co-operative efforts of countries striving for peace.

In May there will be issued a special stamp commemorating the Associated Country Women of the World, the concept of which originated

with a Canadian woman. The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada of which the first provincial institute was founded in 1897, and The Cercles de Fermières organized in Quebec in 1915, with their mottos "For Home and Country" and "La Terre et le Foyer", are affiliated with the Associated Country Women of the World. Some years after the Canadian groups were established a Canadian woman carried the movement to the United Kingdom from where it spread throughout the world. The Associated Country Women of the World finally became a reality in 1933 at a conference in Stockholm, Sweden. Today this world-wide Association directed to the betterment of all mankind has membership in more than thirty countries of the world.

Two postage stamps will be issued in June to mark the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. One stamp will portray Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, who will open the Seaway officially. The other will be a joint issue by Canada and the United States using the same basic design in each country. This joint stamp will commemorate the Seaway as a monument to practical international co-operation.

The circumstances which in 1759 led to the partnership of two races and the founding of our nation will be honoured by the issue of a postage stamp. It was on the Plains of Abraham at Quebec two hundred years ago that two great heroes, Montcalm and Wolfe, gave their lives in a struggle which marked the beginning of a chapter in our history probably with few parallels in the course of human progress.

Further details of these stamps will be announced during the year.

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VANCOUVER FESTIVAL

Vancouver Festival Artistic and Managing Director, Nicholas Goldschmidt, has announced that Herbert von Karajan will conduct the opening concert of the second annual Vancouver International Festival in 1959. At the same time he gave details of many of the other events.

While a date for the opening of the Festival depends on final arrangements with some of the principal artists, it is likely that the first concert by von Karajan will be on July eleventh or thirteenth. The Festival will run until the fifteenth of August.

Herbert von Karajan, who will conduct a pair of concerts, is referred to by some as "general music director of Europe". He is Director of the Berlin Philharmonic, Artistic Director of the Vienna State Opera, one of the Directors of La Scala, Milan, and Artistic Director of the Salzburg Festival. One of his hobbies - piloting planes and fast sports cars - enables him to "commute" from one important assignment to another.

The other conductor already signed, Oivin Fjeldstad, is Norway's eminent Director of

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