

ANOTHER "HAM" AGREEMENT

The Department of External Affairs recently announced that, following an exchange of notes, which took place in San Salvador on March 11 and March 20, the Governments of Canada and El Salvador had concluded an agreement to permit amateur radio stations in the two countries, subject to certain conditions, to exchange messages or other communications from or to third parties. The conditions are that amateur stations should be paid no direct or indirect compensation and that messages should be of a technical or personal nature, where recourse to public telecommunications services would not be justified.

This is the seventh such agreement to which Canada is signatory, the earlier ones having been concluded with the United States, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and Chile. The Canadian Government is at present negotiating similar agreements with a number of other countries.

DIVORCES IN 1962

Although there were no bills of divorce passed by the House of Commons during the two sessions of Parliament in 1962 on behalf of petitioners from Newfoundland and Quebec, the national total for divorces granted during the year increased to 6,709 from 6,563 in 1961, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Additional returns, notably from Ontario, may raise the total slightly.

The 1962 rate was 36.1 (in 100,000 of the population), compared to 36.0 in 1961, which had been the lowest in recent years. Since 1960, the rate has fluctuated between 36.0 and 41.5, compared to the all-time peak of 65.4 in 1947. In 1962, five provinces reported higher rates than in the preceding year. Ontario and British Columbia together accounted for 68 per cent of the Canadian divorces in 1962, or 4,571 out of a national total of 6,709.

NEW SOVIET ENVOY

In a recent ceremony at Government House, His Excellency Ivan Fadeevich Shpedko presented the Governor-General with his letter of credence as Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Ambassador was accompanied by the following members of his staff: Mr. Gavriil Kaverin, Counsellor; Mr. Vladimir Platonov, Commercial Counsellor; Mr. Petr Borisov, Counsellor; Mr. Ivan Khoroshilov, Agricultural Counsellor; Colonel Leonid Nemchenko, Military, Naval and Air Attaché; Mr. Anatoly Ivantsov, First Secretary; Mr. Vladimir Moltchanov, First Secretary; Mr. Sergei Sokolov, First Secretary; Mr. Vladimir Semenov, First Secretary; Mr. Vadim Kavalero, First Secretary; Mr. Sergei Divilkovsky, Attaché.

Mr. Shpedko was born in 1918 and is a graduate of the Kharkov Pedagogical Institute. He joined the foreign service of the U.S.S.R. in 1941 and has since served as Counsellor in Afghanistan and Ambassador to Pakistan. Before taking up his appointment in Canada, Mr. Shpedko was the Deputy Head of the South Asian Division of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

FISHERIES IN 1962

Canadian fisheries were more prosperous in 1962 than at any previous time in their history. Top records of previous years were surpassed in every major sector, with expansion spilling over to add impetus to the construction and boat-building industries.

The Maritime Provinces reported the most productive period they had ever experienced, bringing fishermen a record gross income of over \$43 million. The value of each of the two major catches, lobster and cod, increased by about \$1 million. Scallops, until recently a minor fishery, moved up to third place, and a marginal enterprise, the harvesting of Irish moss from the sea, showed signs of expanding into sudden importance.

Newfoundland established new levels in both the landed value of its catch (\$17 million) and the output of its rapidly-growing frozen-fish industry, while the volume of its traditional products, light-salted cod, showed an upturn for the first time since 1959.

In Quebec, both quantity and value of the sea-fish catch ran from 20 to 25 per cent ahead of 1961 in almost every month of the year.

British Columbia set a new mark for the number of salmon taken in one season (33 million), put up the biggest pack of pink salmon it had ever canned, got a higher value for its halibut catch than ever before and made its first serious venture into the world tuna fishery.

Freshwater operations, which now contribute about 10 per cent of the annual marketed value of all Canadian fish products, made more than proportionate advances.

WINTER WORKS IN NATIONAL PARKS

The 1962-63 winter-works programme in Canada's national parks and on the country's historic sites has been extended and will provide an additional two months employment for some 1,000 men in the vicinity of the parks, it was recently announced by National Resources Minister Walter Dinsdale.

"The extension of the works programme...will provide wage-earning opportunities to those persons who would otherwise be unemployed during April and May", said Mr. Dinsdale. "In addition to the employment, the extension will assist in the completion of a number of projects in the parks already started".

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