

C 278725

SUGGESTED RECRUITMENT IN CANADA OF TRAINED FIREMEN
FOR FIRE FIGHTING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

1. On several occasions suggestions or enquiries have come from Canada as to the employment of Canadian firemen to fight fires in the United Kingdom. In particular the Firemen's Association of Winnipeg intimated through President Bracken of Manitoba that a number of their firemen were prepared to come to England to help in fire fighting, and the Federal authorities enquired informally as to the way in which such offers could best be directed into the most appropriate channel. Quite recently an enquiry on the same subject was received from the Mayor of Toronto through the Lord Mayor of London.

2. As a result of informal consultations which have taken place with the High Commissioner and with Mr. Gardiner, Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Minister of National War Services and Mr. Waterous, a member of the delegation which was in this country last autumn, draft proposals were submitted for the consideration of the Canadian Government on the following lines:-

- (i) The Canadian Government to be responsible for recruiting and organising the Canadian fire contingent and transporting it to the United Kingdom.
- (ii) The financial arrangements to cover the service of this contingent in the United Kingdom to approximate, as far as possible, to those made for the Canadian Forestry Units serving in the United Kingdom, namely,
 - (a) The Canadian Government to bear the cost of the pay, family, dependants and other allowances and pensions of the officers and men forming the contingent.
 - (b) All other charges for the maintenance and equipment of the contingent while in the United Kingdom to be borne by H.M. Government.
 - (c) The cost of transport to and from Canada to be borne by the Canadian Government.
 - (d) The cost of travelling in the United Kingdom to be borne by H.M. Government.
- (iii) It was suggested that a total number of 1,000 men divided into units of about 100 men would be welcome from Canada, and that this contingent should be attached to selected regular brigades or be employed as special emergency units for supplementing water supplies and heavy fire fighting duties where reinforcements were required to meet emergencies.

3. The Canadian Government replied on 13th February, 1941, that they would prefer not to assume responsibility for the organisation of a contingent of firemen for service in the United Kingdom, but that if H.M. Government would assume full responsibility for the organisation, control and compensation of such a contingent, the Canadian Government, on their part