

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments in the Canadian diplomatic service were recently announced:

- (1) Mr. Léon Mayrand, at present Canadian Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay, to be Canadian Ambassador to Cuba and Haiti, succeeding Mr. George Kidd. Mr. Mayrand's successor in Argentina and Paraguay will be announced later.
- (2) Mr. Ralph Collins, at present Head of the African and Middle Eastern Division of the Department of External Affairs, to be Ambassador to South Africa, replacing the late Mr. J.J. Hurley.
- (3) Mr. George K. Grande, at present Head of the Department's Inspection Service, to be High Commissioner to Ceylon, replacing Mr. James George, who will be returning for duty in Ottawa.

"GOLDEN HAWKS" GROUNDED

The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer, recently announced that it had been decided to disband the Royal Canadian Air Force aerobatic team, the "Golden Hawks". The team will not perform this year.

Since they were formed in 1959 to celebrate the golden anniversary of flight in Canada, the "Golden Hawks" have performed before millions of spectators in the United States and Canada, and have gained much favourable publicity for their service.

The decision to disband the team was based on the necessity to use the money spent on it (about \$750,000 a year) for more vital defence needs, particularly new equipment. In addition, the F-86 "Sabre" flown by the "Hawks" is no longer in operational service with the RCAF, and will soon be very difficult and costly to maintain. The performance of aerobatic manoeuvres in close formation makes it necessary for demonstration aircraft to be maintained in perfect form for safety reasons. The "Sabre", which flew well in the Korean conflict and for many years in NATO, is reaching the end of its life expectancy.

ENVOY TO BRITISH GUIANA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, has announced the appointment of Mr. Milton Fowler Gregg as Commissioner for Canada in British Guiana. Mr. Gregg will take up his duties in Georgetown early in March.

The appointment of a Commissioner in British Guiana is a recognition of the many ties which have existed between this territory and the northeast coast of South America and Canada since before the turn of the century. From 1892 until 1924, Canada maintained a commercial agent in British Guiana. Canadian religious and educational institutions, as well as business and financial firms, have already established close associations and these are expected to expand and assume greater importance to the two countries in future years.

BETTER BOATS FOR ESKIMOS

A new type of fishing fleet is building in the Far North. Under the Eskimo Small Boats Assistance Plan, five new boats, with a total value of \$40,820, will be delivered during the coming summer to Eskimos living at Pangnirtung, Igloodik and Pond Inlet, Northwest Territories. They are two 40-foot longliners, one 31-foot trap boat and two 29-foot trap boats.

"I am glad to announce this extension of our partnership with the Eskimos," says Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing. "We work with them through the Eskimo Loan Fund and throughout the establishment of Eskimo co-operatives. This partnership has brought remarkable results. Eskimos are good financial risks. The fact that the new Boats Assistance Plan was over-subscribed speaks well for their confidence in the Government and the confidence we have in them."

The Plan, prepared by Northern Affairs, and recently approved by Parliament, will provide \$20,000 in grants to give Eskimo sea-hunters and fishermen better transportation and a larger hunting and fishing range. Most boats now in use by Eskimos of the Eastern Arctic need replacement by bigger, stouter craft. Under the Plan, the new boats will improve the present methods of hunting seal, whale and walrus and of fishing for arctic char.

The small boat programme offers the Eskimos a 40 percent grant toward the total cost of their boats, provided they can, either individually or in groups, make a down payment of 20 per cent of the total cost. The balance may be provided as a loan from the Eskimo Loan Fund.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

The number of births registered in Canada in 1963 decreased slightly from the figure for 1962, while the numbers of marriages and deaths increased, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

BIRTHS

Estimates based on the number of records filed in provincial offices during the past year indicate a total of some 468,000 births in Canada in 1963, slightly fewer than the 469,700 recorded in 1962. The annual number of births for the country as a whole has been declining steadily from the record high of 479,275 in 1959, but this drop is expected to end in 1963. Final 1963 returns are expected to show increases over 1962 in four provinces - Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Saskatchewan - and decreases in the remainder.

The 1963 national birth rate (for 1,000 of the population) is estimated at 24.8, the lowest since the Second World War and the sixth consecutive annual decline from 28.2 in 1957.

MARRIAGES

In 1963, marriages were estimated at 131,300, as compared to 129,381 in the preceding year, which represents the second consecutive increase from the

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