

MORE FOOD TO INDIA

The Prime Minister announced recently that Canada would provide \$15-million worth of additional food aid to meet the emergency situation in India. The shipment of items of the highest priority will be made as rapidly as transportation can be arranged.

This emergency assistance will be in addition to \$10-million worth of wheat already shipped to India under the 1965-66 food-aid programme.

CANADA'S UN CONTRIBUTION

On behalf of the Government of Canada the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. Paul Tremblay, recently turned over to the UN a cheque for \$3,642,948.35 (U.S.). This represents eleven-twelfths of the voluntary contribution to the United Nations of \$4 million (U.S.) as pledged by Canada on June 21, 1965 to help solve the Organization's financial difficulties. The balance will be forthcoming as soon as Parliament votes full supply for the current fiscal year.

UN TRAFFIC CONVENTION

On December 23 Canada deposited its instrument of accession to the 1949 UN Convention on Road Traffic with the Secretary-General. This instrument, which has already been ratified or acceded to by 75 countries, will enter into force for Canada on January 22. Its provisions cover all aspects of international road transport, including basic rules of the road, certain signs and signals, registration of motor vehicles, technical specifications to which roads and vehicles used by international traffic must conform, and distinguishing signs for vehicles.

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS

The main reason for Canadian participation in the Convention is the difficulty Canadian motorists experience abroad because they do not have internationally-accepted driving licences and registration plates. One of the purposes of the Convention is to enable motorists travelling in foreign countries to obtain driving permits valid in the territories of all contracting states except those issuing the permits. Automobile associations throughout Canada have urged the ratification and implementation of the Convention.

PROVINCES INVOLVED

Since the subject matter of the Convention relates to matters within provincial jurisdiction, before taking final steps to accede on behalf of Canada, the Federal Government obtained from the provinces assurances that, if required, they would be prepared to implement its provisions.

The Government considered it particularly fitting that Canada should become a party to this multilateral Convention during the twelvemonth chosen as International Co-operation Year.

IMMIGRATION AND MANPOWER

Mr. Jean Marchand, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, said recently that, by the end of 1965, Canada would have welcomed 2.5 million newcomers since the end of the Second World War.

From January to the end of November, 1965, 136,996 immigrants had entered Canada an increase of 32,063 or 30 per cent over the total for the same period in 1964. About half entered the labour force, the great majority being skilled or semi-skilled workers.

Mr. Marchand said that a survey of immigration during the first ten months of 1965 indicated clearly the contribution that immigration makes to the economy. Of the 63,493 immigrants entering the labour force, 39,882 were classed as skilled and 11,513 semi-skilled.

From January to October, 1965, the skilled classes included engineers 1,924, physicians and surgeons 654, economists 72, nurses 2,355 and machinists 4,384.

Immigration Department officials estimate that it would have cost Canada an additional \$17,040,100 to provide university education for the 1,924 engineers who came to Canada in the first ten months of 1965. Similarly, for the 654 physicians and surgeons it would have cost Canada at least \$7,416,360.

Even more impressive are the totals of skilled immigrants in the entire post-war period. Representative of these are, from January 1, 1946 to November 30, 1965, engineers 22,500, physicians and surgeons 7,222 and graduate nurses 22,322.

MONETARY BENEFITS

Canada's economy has also received a large-scale injection of hard cash and business knowledge from immigrants who have bought or opened their own business or farming enterprises.

During the first nine months of 1965, the Department received reports of 1,171 immigrants who had established their own businesses or farms, providing employment opportunities for many Canadians. The total financial value was \$22,823,130, of which \$10,192,525 had already been paid in cash. It is estimated that these statistics represent only about 25 per cent of those who have established businesses, and about 50 per cent of those who invested in agriculture.

The immigrants who arrived from January to November 1965, brought with them funds totalling at least \$130 million, a significant addition to the Canadian economy.

"Selective immigration," said Mr. Marchand, in concluding his statement, "is a dynamic force in an expanding economy, provided that it is coupled with a manpower policy designed to make the fullest use of our existing human resources. The association of immigration and manpower services in one department will further this purpose."