

SPECIAL AMBASSADOR: The Department of External Affairs announced on February 22 the appointment of Mr. Harry Albert Scott, Canadian Ambassador to Cuba, as Special Ambassador for the inauguration of the President of Cuba, His Excellency General Fulgencio Batista. The ceremonies are taking place in Havana beginning February 24.

In addition to Mr. Scott, the Canadian Special Mission comprises Messrs. G. A. Browne and C. S. Gadd with the ranks of Counsellor and First Secretary respectively. Both these officers are members of the Canadian Embassy in Havana.

The Ambassador will transmit to President Batista a message from Prime Minister St. Laurent extending his congratulations and best wishes to the Government and people of Cuba.

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IRON ORE EXPORT RISE: Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines in 1954 totalled 7,338,629 tons, an increase of 12.7% from 6,509,818 tons in 1953, according to the Bureau's monthly report on iron ore.

The gain in 1954 was in ore shipped for export, which rose over 30% to 6,462,032 tons from 4,899,893 tons in 1953. Ore shipped to Canadian consumers was down more than 45% at 876,597 tons compared to 1,609,925 tons. Ontario shipments were lower in the year, accounting for 2,425,933 tons as against 2,832,090 tons in 1953, while shipments from other provinces climbed to 4,192,696 from 3,677,728 tons.

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WHEAT SUPPLIES: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on February 2 totalled 356,258,000 bushels, 4% below last year's corresponding total of 369,642,000 bushels. Deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending February 2 rose to 3,816,000 bushels from 1,446,000 but overseas export clearances fell to 2,931,000 bushels from 3,305,000.

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Mr. George R. Clark, Deputy Minister of Fisheries of Canada, has been appointed by the Government a Canadian Commissioner on the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, to replace Mr. Stewart Bates, his predecessor as Deputy Minister, who recently became president of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

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Canadian manufacturers produced more jewellery and silverware in 1953 than in the preceding year, according to the Bureau's annual report on the jewellery and silverware industry. Shipments of jewellery from all industries were worth \$20,580,000 in 1953 as against \$18,522,000 in 1952.

COLOMBO PLAN AID: On January 20 the High Commissioners for Canada in New Delhi and in Karachi formally concluded agreements with the Governments of India and Pakistan respectively for the establishment in both countries of Biological Control Centres as part of Canada's contribution under the Colombo Plan.

This project originated at the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Conference of 1950 at which the Indian and Pakistani delegates requested that consideration be given to the establishment in their countries of biological research stations to develop natural methods of controlling insect pests and weeds. At the request of the Governments of India and Pakistan, Canada arranged for a study of this proposal by Mr. Wendell F. Sellers, Assistant Director of the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control who visited Pakistan and India in the early part of 1952.

Subsequently Canada agreed to contribute funds necessary for the erection and equipment, and the maintenance during a five-year period, of stations at Bangalore, India, and at Rawalpindi, Pakistan, to cost \$38,340 and \$46,140 respectively. The Governments of the two countries in which the centres will be established are providing the sites and the necessary local services.

The Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control is making available the services of Mr. Sellers for a period of eighteen months these two stations are established and Canada is helping under the Technical Assistance Programme to meet some of the costs in this connection. It is expected that at the end of the eighteen month period Pakistani and Indian officials will be employed as officers in charge of these two stations.

The Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control has at present laboratories in Central Europe, the West Indies and California. The headquarters of the Institute are in Ottawa and it has world-wide connections in the field of entomological research. It is anticipated that the two new stations in Pakistan and India will form valuable links in the existing chain of laboratories administered through the C. I. B. and contribute to world control of insect pests and weeds in addition to making a direct contribution to the biological control problems of India and Pakistan.

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Value of sales of wholesalers in nine lines of trade averaged about 5% higher in December than in the corresponding month last year, while the dollar value of inventories at the end of December was virtually unchanged, according to the Bureau's monthly report.

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Canadian production of organic chemicals was valued at \$61,539,000 in 1953, an increase of \$9,643,000 or nearly 19% over 1952.