

There was a substantial growth of the work of the Office in connection with naval matters, among other things arrangements being made for the despatch of destroyers of the Royal Canadian Navy to undertake duty with the Royal Navy.

In addition to questions directly relating to Canada's war effort, many matters arising out of the war engaged the attention of the Office. For instance, Canada House co-operated with the Children's Overseas Reception Board set up by the United Kingdom Government to supervise the transfer of British children to Canada for the duration of the war. The majority of parents applying for the transfer of their children under this scheme had selected Canada from among the Dominions. The total number of applications from British parents exceeded 70,000 up to July 5th, 1940, when postponement of the scheme had to be announced, due to the difficulty in securing convoyed shipping space. On September 20th, 24,130 children had been approved for Canada; 1,538 had actually sailed.

This Office also undertook the arrangements for facilitating the return to Canada of Canadians in cases in which they were either entitled to official passages or were unable to pay their fares. One thousand and ninety Canadians were repatriated in this way, the majority of them being women and children.

Temporary assistance was accorded to many Canadians from European countries now occupied by the enemy who returned to the United Kingdom en route to Canada.

A number of Imperial Committees on which the Office was habitually represented either did not meet during the year, as a result of war conditions, or were convened at less frequent intervals.

There developed during the year many and difficult economic and commercial problems arising out of war-time regulations, both in Canada and the United Kingdom. Canada House was concerned with many of these questions, not only as a channel of communication between the two Governments but also for the purpose of explaining the regulations in question to individuals and interests affected by them. The United Kingdom Defence (Finance) Regulations and the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control Board Regulations in connection with the export of currency and sale of securities may be specifically mentioned, as they involved much detailed work, particularly in connection with the consideration of claims of Canadian nationals for exemption from their operation. These regulations were the especial concern of Mr. Hume Wrong who acted as Special Economic Adviser at Canada House and as such was in continuous contact with the appropriate Government Departments of the United Kingdom concerning economic and commercial questions.

Mr. Wrong and Mr. Frederick Hudd, Chief Canadian Trade Commissioner in the United Kingdom, were appointed Joint Representatives of the Canadian Shipping Board in the United Kingdom, and, in this connection, dealt with a number of special problems regarding shipping which arose out of the war.

The Press Office was occupied with the supplying of information to the British Press regarding Canada's war effort and undertook the distribution of much material on this subject. The film activities of the Office were also greatly extended after the outbreak of war, in view of the increasing demand for films incorporating Canadian material and relating to Canada's war activities.

Some idea of the extent of the work of the Office may be gathered from the fact that from January 1st to December 31st the Despatch Staff of the Office dealt with 42,420 outgoing letters. 246 diplomatic bags were sent to Ottawa, in comparison with 84 bags during 1939, and 2,464 cables and telegrams were despatched during the year as compared with 1,660 in 1939.