

## COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL

To be held in the new Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, the Commonwealth trade and economic conference will start on September 15, according to an Ottawa announcement.

Finance Minister Donald Fleming said that a programme of detailed preparatory work for the ministerial meeting now is "well in hand".

"Senior officials from all Commonwealth countries met in London from February 11 to 13 to discuss a provisional agenda and to co-ordinate the work under way in the various Commonwealth capitals.

"A further meeting of Commonwealth officials will be held in London early in June to carry forward this task."

## CANADA-INDIA AGREEMENT

An agreement providing for a Canadian loan of \$25,000,000 to India to finance purchase of 400,000 tons of Canadian wheat was signed in Ottawa last week.

Finance Minister Fleming signed for Canada and Indian High Commissioner Dr. M. A. Rauf for India.

The \$25,000,000 loan will be repaid in several equal annual installments beginning March 31, 1961. The interest rate will be 4.25 per cent payable annually beginning March 31, 1959.

The Government's decision to make the loan and terms of the loan were announced in the Commons last month.

## YUKON HEALTH SERVICE

A full public health service for all persons in the Yukon has been announced by Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

The new service is operated by the Indian and Northern Health Service of the Department in co-operation with the Territorial Government, the cost being shared.

The service is aimed at providing for every Yukon family a gradually increasing level of public health care, with the advice and co-operation of the family physician. It provides classes in mothercraft, the continuation of the immunization programme against diphtheria, whooping-cough, tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis, health inspections of school children and of school premises in co-operation with school authorities, home visiting by the public health nurses, health information to the community through various channels, the inspection of premises used by the public in co-operation with the Territorial Government's sanitarian, and advice on measures designed to assist public health.

The Commonwealth conference idea was first put forward by the Canadian Government to its Commonwealth partners at a meeting of finance ministers at Mont Tremblant, Quebec, last September.

They agreed then to recommend to their governments that the conference be held.

Replies now have been received from all governments "unanimously supporting the Canadian proposal to hold this important conference in Canada next September," Mr. Fleming said.

General Secretary of the Conference will be Mr. Sidney Pierce, Canadian Deputy High Commissioner in London.

## SCOUTING FLOURISHING

Canada's Boy Scout membership has more than kept pace with the country's population and economic growth since the Second World War, it is stated by Henry Seywerd, Director of Research at Canadian Scout Headquarters in Ottawa. At the close of 1957 Canada had a total Scout membership in excess of 235,000 (boys and leaders). This is an increase of 8 per cent over the previous year and a 129 per cent increase in membership since 1948, Mr. Seywerd states.

"During this ten year period also the boy membership in Canadian Scouting has been increasing at a rate two and one half times faster than the population of Scouting age in Canada. Such growth is likely to continue for the next few years, bringing with it continuing demands for increased adult leadership" Mr. Seywerd predicts. For 1958 Canadian Scout Headquarters hopes to achieve a membership total of a quarter of a million Scouts.

Every one of Canada's Boy Scout Groups has a sponsor. Of the 4,537 registered Scout Groups, 2,721 or 60 per cent are sponsored by churches. The three largest church sponsors of Scout Groups in Canada are: The Roman Catholic Church 756 groups; the United Church, 698 and the Anglican, 626.

Home and School Associations and various educational Institutions sponsor 259 groups. Other sponsorships include: service clubs, 234; civic groups such as Canadian Legion, fraternal organizations and Chambers of Commerce, 329; Community groups, sponsored by groups of citizens, total 884; and there are 79 Scout groups sponsored by the Armed Services in military establishments across Canada and overseas. Nor are the handicapped boys overlooked for there are across Canada some 31 Scout groups for deaf, blind, crippled and mentally retarded boys.

According to Canadian Headquarters' Training Department records some 7,586 adult leaders participated in the Association's formal training courses last year, a new record total.