

exchanges of views between the sovereign and his responsible advisers in relation to public affairs prior to decisions or actions for which his advisers themselves and they only have full constitutional responsibility.

ALLEGED DISCLOSURES NARROWED

Le Devoir in its article of February 13 narrows its alleged disclosures to one assertion. After discussing the Prime Minister's communication to the press it says in so many words:

The only new fact asserted by Le Devoir is the existence of a personal communication of the king expressing the desire that our ambassadors' letters of credence continue to be submitted to him for signature. It is precisely this royal communication which constitutes the state secret which it was destined to keep inviolate.

After making that assertion, the paper states:

The Canadian people have the right to know if King George VI did express, in a communication to the Canadian government, a personal desire which would amount to an intrusion of the government of Great Britain in our foreign politics. The Canadian people also have the right to know if the king expressed this desire before the issuance of the new letters patent or only during the last weeks.

I feel I can say this much: There has been no communication whatsoever from His Majesty referring to the manner in which it would be agreeable to him to have letters of credence to Canadian ambassadors and ministers dealt with since May, 1947 and there has been no communication at any time which would amount to an intrusion by the government of Great Britain in our foreign politics.

SUGGESTION FANTASTIC

Any suggestion that His Majesty may have been acting on advice of the United Kingdom ministers in the course of the correspondence with the Prime Minister of Canada about these letters patent is fantastic. I will merely recall, because it is too clear to require any comment, that the right to advise His Majesty in prerogative matters affecting Canada resides exclusively in the government of Canada.

The conference on the operation of dominion legislation held in London in 1929 to provide for the implementation of the declaration of the imperial conference of 1926, made the following declaration:

It is the right of the government of each dominion to advise the Crown in relation to all matters relating to its own affairs.

The report of this conference was approved by the imperial conference of 1930.

This was followed by the statute of Westminster, 1931, which refers to the declarations and resolutions set forth in the reports of these conferences and makes the legislative

provisions required to ratify, confirm and establish such of these declarations and resolutions as it was necessary to deal with by legislation.

CONSTITUTIONAL ADVANCE

The new letters patent in increasing the powers of the governor general represent a very significant constitutional advance in line with the declarations of the conferences and the statute of Westminster. To suggest that there has been anything whatsoever which could be regarded as retrogressive in connection therewith or in connection with the practices thereunder is absolutely unwarranted.

What I have already said disposes also of the assertion in the article of the Chicago Tribune referred to by the hon. member. With regard to the references in that article to the appointment of Mr. Edmond Turcotte, I need only say this: The correspondence relating to the new letters patent and to what was intended to be the practice thereunder took place several months before Mr. Turcotte's appointment. Moreover, Mr. Turcotte was not appointed ambassador or minister. He was appointed consul general, an appointment of a different character, which was made by order of His Excellency the Governor General in council on the 27th of October last.

OFFICER TRAINING SCHEME

DEFENCE SERVICES COOPERATE: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, outlined, in the House of Commons February 17, arrangements made for the training of officers for the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

During the war, Mr. Claxton said, combined operations under unified command brought victory to the allied side. Considerable progress has already been made in the unification of the Department of National Defence and in the co-ordination of the three services.

SAME ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

As a beginning in co-operation we have decided to require the same entrance qualifications and to give the same general education at the same places for cadets in all three services.

This arrangement has been worked out after studies of educational experience in this country as well as in Great Britain, the United States, Australia and elsewhere.

The Naval College at Royal Roads was this year extended to include air cadets. In September it will also be open to candidates for the army. Royal Roads will have a two-year course, corresponding closely to the first two years in engineering at a university.

Also in September of this year R.M.C., Kingston, will reopen for cadets for the three services. The first two years will be identical

with those at Royal Roads and there will be a further two years, making a four-year course in all. On the completion of their course at Royal Roads cadets for all branches of the three services will go on to complete their course at R.M.C. except that cadets for the Executive and Marine Engineering Branches of the Navy, after two years at R.M.C. or Royal Roads, will take special training before being posted as sub-lieutenants.

EXTRA YEAR AT UNIVERSITY

Entrance requirements for both Royal Roads and R.M.C. will be senior matriculation or its equivalent. Candidates must have reached their sixteenth but not their twentieth birthday on 1st January preceding entrance. Naval applicants, except in the case of candidates from classical colleges, must not have reached their nineteenth birthday on 1st January.

The standard achieved will be approximately the same as that in a four-years' arts course and three years towards an engineering degree. Following graduation from R.M.C., students in technical and engineering subjects will be carried on for an extra year at a university to give them a university degree.

During the summer months students will do three and a half months' practical work with their branch of their service. At the end of the course they will thus have completed almost a year's practical training in addition to their general education, which will be on a broader basis than ever before.

SECOND SOURCE OF OFFICERS

The second source of officers is the universities. Arrangements have been made with twenty-two universities under which undergraduates may join the Canadian Officers' Training Corps or University Naval Training Division. Under these arrangements, students will receive theoretical training during the college term and will spend three and a half months in the summer doing practical work together with the cadets from Royal Roads and Royal Military College. At the completion of their university courses, in addition to their degree, they will have had additional theoretical military work and the equivalent of a year's practical training with their service. Similar arrangements are in effect for the Air Force.

Under all these plans, the pay received during the summer months will make a substantial contribution towards the cost of tuition and other expenses during the college term.

The third source of officer material is in promotion from the ranks. It is hoped that as many as twenty per cent of officers will be selected in this way. Officer cadets from the ranks will attend either one of the Canada service colleges or the universities at government expense.

These arrangements for officer training are

in addition to service schools for training in the use of weapons and trades schools in all three services. A number of schools are of an inter-service nature, such as the Joint Army-Air School at Rivers, where all aspects of Army-Air Force co-operation are studied, or the Winter Warfare School at Churchill, where all three services and the Defence Research Board are studying techniques of winter warfare. There are as well Army and Air Staff Colleges, and The National Defence College for senior officers and civilian officials opened at Kingston on the 5th January last.

TRAINING IN LANGUAGES

Further, all three services have specialist officers undergoing postgraduate training at universities in Canada.

Another educational scheme of importance is the institution of language training. The Army is putting into effect French classes in every command and training centre. At headquarters 178 officers are taking voluntary courses in French. Provision is also made for training in languages other than French. The Navy and Air Force will soon implement similar plans.

Modern war requires technical abilities of the highest order. Should an emergency arise, the outcome may well turn on the professional skills and qualities of leadership of the staffs and fighting formations of every branch of every service. For this reason we are trying to ensure that the Canadian defence forces will be led by men who will live up to the fighting reputation of Canadians and who will also have the intelligence and knowledge to develop and use the weapons and skills that may be necessary for the effective defence of our country.

RELIC OF 1758 RECOVERED: Believed to be an anchor lost by one of the warships in the British force under General Wolfe when he successfully attacked the Port of Louisburg in 1758, an antique type anchor and chain has been recovered by the Department of Transport icebreaker, the C.G.S. "Saurel" off that port. Advice received by the Department of Transport at Ottawa states that the C.G.S. "Saurel" was stationed off Louisburg. When her anchor was raised, it brought to the surface this relic of bygone days. Captain Wm. Poole, Master of the C.G.S. "Saurel" informed Department officials that the shape of the ancient anchor dates it to the days of General Wolfe. Inasmuch as the General's fleet was anchored in that immediate locality when attacking Louisburg, Captain Poole believes it to be a relic of those stirring days in Canadian history.

WHOLESALE SALES UP 12 P.C.: Dollar volume of wholesale sales in nine lines of trade for the year 1947 was 12 per cent higher than in 1946.