

POSTAL EXPERT TO WEST INDIES

Mr. Walter J. Turnbull, Deputy Postmaster General of Canada until his retirement in 1957, left Canada for Trinidad on October 29, to serve as postal adviser to the Government of The West Indies. Mr. Turnbull has been sent to The West Indies under the Canada-West Indies Aid Programme.

Mr. Turnbull will assist the Government of The West Indies in carrying out the unification of The West Indies postal system recommended in a report prepared in 1957 by Mr. J.B. Hood, a postal adviser from the United Kingdom. At present, each of the governments of The West Indies Federation has its own postal system and issues its own postage stamps.

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JOBS FOR GRADUATES

On November 2, the Minister of Labour addressed a letter to more than 5,000 Canadian employers in which he asked them to indicate to the National Employment Service of the Unemployment Insurance Commission their expected requirements for university graduates and undergraduates at the end of this academic year.

In the academic year ending in 1959, Canadian universities had a student population of about 94,000. It is expected that, when all the returns are in, the total for the present academic year will be close to 104,000. In 1959, there were about 17,000 graduates from Canadian universities and, if the same ratio of graduates to total student population is maintained, it would mean that there would be about 18,000 graduates this year, most of whom will be seeking, for the first time, to enter the employment market on other than a temporary basis.

There has been an increasing tendency on the part of Canadian employers to send their own recruiters direct to the universities. The Minister in his letter does nothing to discourage employers from continuing this practice but points out that the National Employment Service can be of considerable assistance to them in filling their needs.

There has been a noticeable trend in recent years for employers to hire undergraduates for summer work with the intention of offering the most promising of them permanent employment upon graduation. It has also been noted that, where money is not the overriding consideration, the present tendency is for students to seek employment in the field in which they hope, eventually, to make careers. Some years ago the supposedly more glamorous jobs were usually filled first.

The National Employment Service acts as a free clearing-house for prospective employers and university students. At a number of Canadian universities, it maintains fully staffed

offices throughout the academic year and provides employment assistance on a part-time basis at a number of others. Several of the largest Canadian universities maintain their own employment service for graduates, with the National Employment Service providing assistance to undergraduate students who are seeking summer employment only.

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VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

A report bringing together information on various publicly-operated technical and vocational training programmes carried on in Canada to teach home economics, commercial, art, service trades, fishing, forestry, landscaping, and marine engineering and navigation, has just been released by the Department of Labour in Ottawa.

The report is one of a series outlining the results of surveys conducted under the Skilled Manpower Training Research Programme begun by the Department of Labour in 1956, in co-operation with other interested federal and provincial departments, management and union organizations.

It deals specifically with the following subjects: commerce; home economics; art; hospital laboratory and X-ray technicians; nursing assistants; nurses' aides and practical nurses; marine engineering and navigation; radio operating and wireless communication; fishing; forestry; gardening and landscaping; barbering; beauty culture and hair-dressing; cooking; dressmaking, tailoring, millinery and clothing design; power-machine operation for the clothing trade; watch and jewellery repair; and shoe repair.

According to the report, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta have organized programmes in some of the above fields at the post high-school level. The Department of Education in Manitoba has made a survey of the needs in the post high-school vocational training areas for the province and a programme of courses at this level is being organized. Some other provinces have individual courses in operation that are listed in the report in the post high-school group because of the content of the course.

Vocational courses at the high school level are offered in vocational, technical, commercial, composite and other provincial high schools.

A great variety of occupational courses are offered in the various provinces. These vary in length from a few weeks to two years. These courses, in general, are for students who have completed the regular school programme or who have dropped out before graduation and who are either employed or seeking employment. Therefore, the report states, the emphasis in these courses is placed on the development of skills or knowledge of the theory related to a specific trade.