

(C.W.B. August 5, 1949)

DEFENCE EXPERTS' VISIT: Fifteen members of the student body and directing staff of Britain's Imperial Defence College arrived in Ottawa on August 1 by air from England on a 27-day tour of Canada, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, has announced.

The party will visit and inspect industrial plants and defence installations in larger centres from coast to coast and in the Canadian north. An additional week will be spent in the United States before the return flight to England on September 3.

The college annually sends its students on summer tours but this will be the first Canadian visit. Half of the 1949 class is coming here while the other half is touring the Far East.

In addition to Ottawa, where the group was welcomed by Mr. Claxton and is spending the first four days of the tour, the itinerary includes visits to Sudbury, Toronto, Oshawa, Niagara and Welland, Hamilton, Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Churchill, Sawmill Bay and Port Radium, Whitehorse, Vancouver, Victoria, Lethbridge, Suffield and Edmonton.

Eastern Canadian points to be visited, following the week in the United States, include again Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Bagotville, Arvida, Dartmouth and Gander.

Conferences with Navy, Army, Air Force and governmental officials will be held in Ottawa and at the various defence establishments visited during the tour. The programme also calls for visits to large industrial plants across the country.

Major-General W.P. Oliver, CB, OBE, and Mr. D.E.H. Wynter, MVO, are the two members of the directing staff coming to Canada with the party. The former is army instructor at the college and Mr. Wynter is a member of the civilian instructing staff.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: Time loss due to work stoppages arising from industrial disputes in Canada during June, 1949, was 20 per cent less than the figure for the previous month, it was revealed by the monthly summary of strikes and lockouts for June issued by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

The strike of asbestos miners and mill-workers in various centres in Quebec, together with the strike of railway car workers at Hamilton, Ontario, accounted for about 84 per cent of the total time loss during the month.

Preliminary figures for June, 1949, showed 27 strikes and lockouts in existence, involving 11,359 workers, with a time loss of 141,084 man-working days, as compared with 23 in May, 1949, with 10,540 workers involved and a time loss of 174,150 days. In June, 1948, there were 29 strikes involving 3,804 workers with a time loss of 34,337 days.

ENGINEERS' SALARIES: For the past four years there has been a continued upward trend in starting salaries of graduates in science and engineering, it was announced on July 28 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

The median annual starting salary of these graduates in 1946 was \$2,150. This figure had risen each year to reach a peak for the class of '49 of \$2,550, the Minister stated.

The figures for 1949 were computed from a study of 1,000 individual cases. Some of the information was obtained from employers and the rest from the students themselves, explained Mr. Mitchell.

Approximately 76 per cent of the starting salaries of the 1949 class were \$2,400 per year, or higher, while the lowest 10 per cent had a maximum of \$2,260. This compared with 55 per cent in 1948 who received \$2,400, or higher annually, while the lowest 10 per cent last year had a maximum of \$2,100.

FORT BEAUSEJOUR MUSEUM: The new wing of Fort Beausejour Museum, near Sackville, New Brunswick, was formally opened by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson, on August 2.

The new addition is named "The John Clarence Webster Wing" as a tribute to Dr. J.C. Webster, Chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and Honorary Curator of the Fort Beausejour Museum.

Taking part in the official opening were Hon. D.L. MacLaren, Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick; Hon. J.B. McNair, Premier of New Brunswick; Chas. Eaton of Washington, D.C.; former Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States House of Representatives; Rev. Father Cormier, President of St. Joseph's University, St. Joseph, New Brunswick; and the Mayor of Amherst, Nova Scotia.

Dr. Webster acted as Chairman of the ceremony, and Col. Gibson, representing the federal Government, unveiled the bronze plaque which designates the new addition as "The John Clarence Webster Wing". The ribbons across the two entrances to the new wing were cut by the Lieut. Governor and Premier McNair. A number of Senators, members of Parliament, members of the Legislative Assembly, judges, and prominent educationists attended the ceremony.

Fort Beausejour Museum is part of Fort Beausejour National Historic Park, established in 1926 on the site of old Fort Beausejour - one of the most interesting historical places in New Brunswick. It is situated about midway between Sackville, New Brunswick, and Amherst, Nova Scotia, and overlooks Chignecto Bay. The fort was originally constructed by the French between 1751 and 1755 as a counter defence against the English Fort Lawrence.

FISHERIES CONFERENCES: Meetings vital to the future economic development of the commercial fisheries are being held in Canada's East Coast Provinces.

The discussions, are taking place with representatives of the fishing industry in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec, and the Minister of Fisheries, Hon. R.W. Mayhew, and Deputy Minister Stewart Bates. Mr. Mayhew and Mr. Bates, accompanied by Ian S. McArthur, Director of Economics, who is also Acting Chairman of the Fisheries Prices Support Board, are explaining more fully to the industry the Government's proposed programme which was outlined in May of this year.

Further conferences are expected to take place between the federal Government and representatives of the fishing industry elsewhere in Canada. The Fisheries Council of Canada, national body representing Canada's fishing industry, has been requested to convene a special general meeting at Ottawa on September 9. By September, as a result of the meetings between its representatives and Mr. Mayhew, the industry should have a clearer understanding of the proposed government programme, and should be in a better position to discuss its broad details before Parliament convenes to study legislation which would be necessary before action on the programme could be undertaken, the Fisheries Department announces.

NRC PATENTS FOR INDUSTRY: Canadian Patents and Development Limited, incorporated as a Crown company early in 1948, provides a means of making readily available to industry, through licensing arrangements, new processes and improvements in processes developed by scientific workers in the National Research Council. Widespread interest has been shown in the Company's activities. In response to the many requests that have been received for identification of the patents available for licensing, the Company has just issued a handbook, giving titles and patent references for the information of industrial firms who may be interested in these processes. The handbook lists 64 patents issued and eight applications pending, the National Research Council announced on August 2.

Of the total, 12 deal with aeronautical subjects such as wing structures for airplanes, prevention and removal of ice or frost on aircraft parts and the heating devices involved; 28 are chemical patents covering such varied subjects as production of non-mottling and non-hardening maple sugar, maple flavour concentrates, improved flavours in dried fruits, molded compositions from asbestos, carbon black, anhydrous magnesium chlorides, butylene glycol, explosives, guanidine nitrate and glycerol. Protection of heat-resistant alloys against carburization, and a

process for the thermal treatment of gases and vapours are also included in the list.

Patents have been taken out in ten different countries on a process for the production of ammonium nitrate, developed during the war when this material was wanted for munitions purposes. It is now used as a source of nitrogen in commercial fertilizers. Applications for additional patents on this subject are pending in eight other countries.

Heating methods for use in refrigerator cars and cold stores are covered by four patents and photography is represented by two patents.

Three patents relate to the production of laminated or plywood structures and plastic materials, while others deal with methods of plucking poultry (by use of wax) and the design of containers for perishable commodities.

MONTREAL TRAFFIC TUNNELS: Atlas Construction Co. Ltd., of Westmount, Que., has been awarded the contract for constructing a two-lane vehicular tunnel under the Lachine Canal at St. Remi Street, Montreal, according to a departmental announcement released July 27 by the Deputy Minister of Transport. The Westmount firm submitted the lowest tender of \$2,408,857.

This is one of two vehicular tunnels to be constructed under the Lachine Canal within the heart of the City of Montreal to provide traffic arteries connecting with the City of Verdun, Ville La Salle and the various municipalities and wards of the city lying south of the canal. The other tunnel is planned to be constructed in the vicinity of Atwater Avenue. The two tunnels are estimated to cost \$11,000,000 with the city paying one-third and the federal Government two-thirds.

DR. WOODWARD'S APPOINTMENT: James C. Woodward, B.S.A., M.S., Ph.D., M.C. and Bar, agricultural scientist with the federal Department of Agriculture's Division of Chemistry, has been appointed Dominion Agricultural Chemist, it has been announced by the Department. Dr. Woodward's appointment fills a vacancy left by the death in April, 1949, of Clifford H. Robinson.

CALL WAR LOAN BONDS: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced on July 28 that the Government had decided, pursuant to the terms of issue, to call at par on October 1, 1949, its issue of 3% Second War Loan Bonds dated October 1, 1940, and maturing October 1, 1952. This issue is outstanding in the amount of \$324,945,700.