

MAYFAIR'S OTTAWA LETTER

BY RIDEAU

Ottawa, January 1



THE social season that envelops Christmas and the New Year with gaiety was quieter than usual in Ottawa this year, because Their Excellencies the Governor General and Viscountess Willingdon were away.

Ordered to milder climes for his health, His Excellency chose the West Indies. His holiday was short, and the time spent at each port, infinitesimal, yet he had scarcely returned when there was tangible proof that the bonds of friendship between the Dominion and the Colony had been more closely cemented through his kindly efforts.

Not since the days of the roving buccaneers have the West Indies been so much in the public eye as they have since Canada signed the trade agreement with them, and since the Canadian National Fleet began cruising the Spanish Main. The five vessels linking Canada with the Indies have brought a new glamor to the islands, they float so white, so lightly poised, down the tropic seas. Today there is new loot on the Spanish Main!

Green and white islands float in a turquoise sea; islands steeped in sunshine and heavy under the umbrage of drooping fronded trees and luxuriant undergrowth, splashed with gorgeous flowers, skirted with shining beaches. Islands, furthermore, made significant in every cove and every quaint street of their little towns, with history. This is the new loot of the West Indies.

It was always there of course, but once upon a time men were more concerned with doubloons buried in the sand, than with the joys of sunbathing, and gave more time to cutting throats on slippery decks than cutting strokes on a pleasant green fairway. The great admirals of Merry England, and the seamen of proud Spain, the pirates and the privateers, treasure and booty and bloodshed, have all added their glamor to the West Indies.

But now for a time the making of vivid history has subsided and the islands drowse in memories and beauty. They offer their true treasure, which is for the languorous as well as for the active, and which spills no blood.

Every island of the Indies has its romance and its beauty and it is difficult to persuade the traveller to decide which is the favorite spot.

Jamaica, where Their Excellencies made their longest stay, is by many minds the most fascinating island of all, although Bermuda would fight hard for first place. Bermuda is closer to the north, and bright in its sunshine and gleaming its white roofs. Jamaica is deeper down in the Tropics, thronged with colorful life—one need only mention ginger, and shall we say rum? There is to be a new hotel at Constant Spring just outside Kingston. One of the returned voyageurs tells us that it is costing three quarters of a million dollars and will have a swimming pool, a ball room and a fine golf course. The golf course is being designed by a Canadian, Stanley Thompson, the golf architect who was responsible for the links at Jasper Park.

Top: Miss Mary Devlin, debutante daughter of Mrs. Devlin and the late Emmanuel Devlin, M.P., of Ottawa, for whom her mother entertained at a house dance. Portrait by Paul Horsdal.
Below: Miss Suzanne Hill, debutante daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hill, of Ottawa and granddaughter of Sir Charles and Lady Fitzpatrick, of Quebec. Miss Hill made her debut at a dance at the Country Club. Portrait by Paul Horsdal.

Their Excellencies were accompanied on their cruise by Mr. E. C. Mieville, secretary to His Excellency, by Captain R. T. Fiennes, A. D. C., whose father was at one time Governor of the Leeward Islands; and Captain Richard Streatfield, A. D. C.

Two prominent Canadians on board were Henri Bourassa [See also page 106]

At right: Maynard, Muriel, A. daughter of John Bain, on her wedding. Left to right: T. Wilson, Bate, Miss Dougall, Flight Lieutenant Cripps, D. F. F., of London, best man. Mackie of C. R. Booth, M. son, and Dr. Kay, Captain Maynard is a Mrs. Edward of Dorking, land. He is Ottawa

The former son, Brenna Lawrence, son, daughter John Charles Mrs. Brenna With the b Kingsley M real, as ma and the brie A. B. Thon real; Mrs. wood, of Ot H. Wickett Mrs. John Wi

