



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**PARLIAMENT HALTS RAIL STRIKE.** The general rail strike, which for nine days had paralyzed 40,000 miles of railways, and all telegraph services ended on the night of August 30.

In response to an emergency back-to-work law enacted by Parliament in an all-day, non-stop sitting, leaders of the 17 international and Canadian unions involved issued a nationwide, return-to-work order over the radio at 10:15 p.m. Some workers were back at work in a matter of minutes; trains started to roll again within a few hours.

The prime provision of the Bill passed by Parliament and given Royal Assent on August 30 was that the railways and the unions must resume operation of railroads and subsidiary services within 48 hours after the measure became law. The union spokesmen, Frank H. Hall and A.R. Mosher, had declared before-hand that the strikers would obey such a law. After all-day debate, the Bill was given final reading in the House of Commons at 7:18 p.m.; the Senate, standing by, acted swiftly to give its approval, and Royal Assent was accorded without delay.

The emergency Bill passed by Parliament

assures the workers of receiving at least as much as the final settlement offer of the railways on which negotiations were broken off on the night of August 26. This will give them an immediate wage increase of four cents an hour -- three cents short of the union demand -- and a 40-hour week with pay for 48 hours, effective September 1, 1951, with hotel and water employees included in these benefits.

Under the new law the railways and unions are to resume negotiations immediately, with an arbitrator to be appointed if they fail to reach agreement within 30 days. The arbitrator's decision would be binding on both parties. This provision aroused controversy, but an opposition amendment calling for its deletion was defeated by 175 to 49, with the C.C.F. supporting the Progressive Conservatives.

The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, had stated on the previous day that the Bill was not intended to provide for any permanent procedure for the handling of labour relations.

The text of the Speech from the Throne, read on August 29 at the opening of the emergency session of Parliament by Viscount Alexander, Governor General, follows:

(Continued on p. 8)