

## REPORTING PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

**EUROPEAN RELATIONS STATEMENT:** In reply to Mr. Hackett, in the House of Commons on June 19, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, made a statement on relations with western Europe and other members of the Commonwealth. He said in part:--

"We feel that, should war break out that affected the United Kingdom and the United States, we would inevitably be involved and that there might be great value in having consummated a regional pact whereby these western European countries, the United Kingdom and the United States and ourselves, would guarantee each other's security.

"We had hoped that the United Nations would guarantee the security of all of us, but that has not been accomplished, and we think there would be value in a regional pact whereby these western European democracies, the United Kingdom, the United States and ourselves agreed to stand together, to pool for defence purposes our respective potentials and co-ordinate right away our forces, so that it would appear to any possible aggressor that he would have to be prepared to overcome us all if he attempted any aggression.

"We do not think a pact that did not include those major powers would be sufficiently impressive to require us to be a party to it. We think this western union is a good thing, but our adhesion to it without the United States would add very little to it. We are hopeful that it will develop into something which will comprise the United States along with those who are already members, and in that event we think the people of Canada would wish that we also be associated with it, not because we want to assert domination over anyone, but because we realize that if the group in this regional pact became involved in war we would necessarily be involved with them...."

**NEWFOUNDLAND STATEMENT:** In reply to questions by Progressive Conservative members, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, made a statement in the House of Commons on June 19 on Canada's recent negotiations with Newfoundland. He said in part:--

"My own personal view with respect to these negotiations has been that it would be a serious responsibility to do or say anything which would prevent the entry of Newfoundland into Canada. I may be an optimist, but I do believe that the Canadian nation is destined to occupy an important place in world affairs. I do believe, further, that that place in world affairs would be better preserved by a territory which extended right out to the broad ocean and that access thereto was not closed to Canada by another sovereignty over the territories of Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Because of that attitude, we made offers which would involve quite costly requirements

from the Canadian people at the present time. But I think we would have been remiss in our duty to future generations of Canadians not to have done so. That offer having been made, if there is a desire on the part of the people of Newfoundland to accept it, I think the Government will be disposed to recommend to Parliament that it be implemented.

"It might be that there would come about in Newfoundland a division of opinion that would show that the time was not ripe for union to take place, and that it would not be easy to have it work satisfactorily in what would then be a new province. That is something which I hope we shall not have to face, and about which I would prefer not to have to express any views, unless we do have to face it. I hope there will be a clear-cut decision in this second vote. I hope it will not be so close as to leave us in the embarrassing position of having to take in a large group of recalcitrants, or having to renounce the opportunity of completing what the Fathers of Confederation originally intended...."

**OUTSTANDING CREDITS:** In the House of Commons on June 18, in reply to a question by Mr. Macdonnell, the Minister of Trade and Commerce made a statement on the amounts outstanding of credits advanced by Canada. The text, from Hansard, is as follows:--

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Last night I asked the Minister if he would give us the figures as to the amounts outstanding of credits which had been extended. If the Minister can give us those figures over the last three years, or since the end of the war, showing the amount of credit which has been extended, I should like him to do so. But if he has them for some shorter period than that, I would not object.

Right Hon. C.D. HOWE (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I have certain rather comprehensive statements here. It might be easier to put them on Hansard, but I will read them just to give the idea. To Belgium the total loan was \$100,000,000; the cash advanced to June 12, 1948, was \$67,000,000. The interest to that time was consolidated, so that the gross debt today is about \$67,707,753.42. The balance of the loan is roughly \$33,000,000. It expires on December 31, 1948.

### LOAN TO CHINA

The loan to China was \$60,000,000. The cash advanced to date--and I will just give the round figures--was \$42,600,000. Orders have been placed at an estimated cost of \$8,000,000 against the loan.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Does that mean that it would now be up to \$50,000,000?

Mr. HOWE: Yes; something more than that, as a matter of fact. Commitments are \$8,000,000. That loan expires on December 31, 1948.