

Prorogation

maple leaf, was inaugurated on February 15, 1965. My ministers are convinced that, through the years, the flag will constitute an important contribution to Canadian unity and Canadian identity.

With Her Majesty's consent, and in accordance with your recommendation, the royal union flag will be flown on appropriate occasions to symbolize Canada's membership in the commonwealth and our devotion to the crown.

You have enacted legislation authorizing the integration of Canada's three armed services and have approved a white paper on the reshaping of Canada's defence policy to improve the effectiveness of our contribution to peace keeping and international security.

The preliminary report of the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism has been laid before you. My ministers have been gratified to observe the improving understanding of problems arising from the reality and importance of the dual character of our country.

In the spirit of co-operative federalism, my government has held important conferences with the governments of the provinces, and close consultation has greatly improved the co-ordination of federal and provincial policies.

You have enacted legislation whereby the abatement of federal tax on personal incomes, in favour of the provinces, will be increased during the next two fiscal years. You have also enacted legislation whereby my government may make, with provinces which so wish, alternative financial arrangements respecting certain established programs the cost of which is shared by my government.

The federal-provincial conference has established a tax structure committee which is reviewing the fiscal needs and relationships of federal and provincial governments.

You have approved an address to the Queen as a result of which the British North America Act was amended to provide that parliament may legislate concerning benefits, for disabled persons and for survivors, supplementary to old age pensions.

Following this constitutional amendment, you have enacted legislation to establish the Canada pension plan, for the comprehensive provision of retirement pensions which will be fully portable and which will be kept in line with changes in earnings and in the cost of living. In the same legislation you have provided a measure of income maintenance for contributors who become disabled and for the widows and children of contributors who die.

In the same legislation also, you have provided that the old age security pension will in future be paid from age 65 and that the basic amount of the pension will be increased if the cost of living rises.

You have enacted legislation whereby allowances of \$10 a month are paid in respect of children aged 16 and 17 who are not working, either because they are unable to do so or because they are receiving full time education.

You have adopted a measure whereby my government may guarantee bank loans to university students and pay the interest on these loans during the years of study; this program is being administered in co-operation with the provinces.

You have enacted a measure to establish a labour code for industries under federal jurisdiction. The code provides for a minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour and for standards respecting hours of work and holidays.

[Mr. Speaker.]

The cash income of Canadian farmers rose in 1964 to a record level. Exports of wheat were the largest ever. Revisions in dairy policy were reflected in increased production, especially of cheese, better sales and prices, and the elimination of the butter surplus.

You have enacted a measure establishing a new type of farm credit, so that partnerships of farmers may borrow for the purchase of machinery to be used co-operatively.

You have enacted legislation to double the size of loans which may be made by the Farm Credit Corporation and of loans by chartered banks guaranteed under the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

You have adopted a measure whereby my government may provide re-insurance of the major portion of the disaster risk to any province establishing a crop insurance program.

You have approved increased assistance to farmers in eastern Canada and British Columbia purchasing feed grains.

My government is expanding the work of ARDA and has made with the provinces a new agreement respecting programs for the five years beginning 1 April, 1965.

You have approved an increase in Canada's contribution to the world food program.

In 1964 Canada's fisheries established records both in the quantities landed and the value of the catch to fishermen. A federal-provincial conference on fisheries development gave impetus to a widespread program of industrial development in the fisheries.

You have adopted a measure establishing a 12 mile fishing zone.

You have approved increases in veterans pensions and allowances, enabling their recipients to maintain their standards of living and to share in the benefits of a more buoyant economy.

By amending the National Housing Act you have broadened the range of financial assistance available for urban renewal and low rental housing.

My government has concluded an agreement with the United States respecting free trade in automobiles and their components. The agreement makes possible for the industry programs designed to achieve substantial improvements in efficiency, production and employment.

You have approved the payment of subvention assistance on the movement of Canadian coal for a period of five years from 1 April, 1965, and have authorized loans for coal production assistance for a further period of four years.

You have enacted legislation whereby divorce bills can be dealt with more expeditiously.

My government has initiated inquiries directed to the reassessment of immigration policy and procedures.

My ministers have made further progress in the study and implementation of many of the recommendations and suggestions of the royal commission on government organization.

We must note with regret that in the past year there has been little progress in reducing international tensions. In recent weeks, some tensions have been heightened. My government has continued to make constructive efforts toward peace and good neighbourliness.

You have approved the participation of Canadian troops in the United Nations force in Cyprus. Though no long term solution to this problem is yet in sight, the United Nations force has been successful in controlling armed conflict.