

Earl Alexander Made Privy Council Member: Ottawa, January 29 (CP) -- Earl Alexander today was admitted to membership in the Canadian Privy Council -- the highest honour this country can bestow. He took his oath of office in a simple, 15-minute ceremony in the Privy Council chamber in the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, with the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, and other high state officials in attendance.

Later, the former Governor-General told reporters:

"I am very highly honoured and very deeply moved that this high honour has been given to me. It is the highest honour that Canada can give to anyone and I am naturally very proud of it. It also keeps up my contacts with Canada and I am very happy because it means I will not be severing my connections with this country."

Planes For R.C.A.F. To Cost \$1,500,000,000: Ottawa, January 29 (CP) -- The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, said tonight an important part of Canada's aircraft programme is behind schedule but the R.C.A.F. still aims to form a new fighter squadron every two months from now on.

Giving an insight into the cost of this drive to build up a fighter force, he disclosed that it will cost about \$1,500,000,000 to build the 3,000 new planes the R.C.A.F. is going to get under the three-year defence programme launched in 1951.

In an apparent reference to developments in atomic and other fields, Mr. Claxton, in a nation-wide broadcast, said Canada is building armed forces "to fight battles with weapons and under conceptions man has never before dreamt of."

Since Korea began 18 months ago, the strength of the forces has grown 90 per cent--to 90,000 from 47,000.

Chiefs In Science Visiting Washington: Ottawa, January 30 (CP) -- Three of Canada's top government figures in the atomic and scientific fields were in Washington or heading there yesterday, stirring speculation that Canada may be following up the first break in American barriers to release of atom secrets abroad. The three are Dr. C.J. MacKenzie, head of Canada's Atomic Energy Control Board; W.J. Bennett, head of the Eldorado Mining and Refining, Ltd., which produces and refines Canada's uranium and Dr. O.M. Solandt, Chairman of the Defence Research Board.

The purposes behind the visits are secret, but Mr. Bennett at least is seeing the American Atomic Energy Board and it is considered likely that Dr. MacKenzie will too. Mr. Bennett's firm has been reported anxious to hire an American firm to build a new uranium refinery, a step prevented by U.S. laws.

Across Canada: The federal Government plans to spend about \$1,000,000 on the harbour installations of Quebec city this year....The Prince Edward Island Legislature will open on Tuesday, March 11, Premier Walter Jones announced last night.... Mr. Hume Wrong, Canadian Ambassador in Washington arrived in Ottawa on January 28 from Washington for a periodic visit with officials of the External Affairs Department....Canada is arranging a \$2,000,000 contract to provide Pakistan with railway ties, Mr. Howe said last night in Vancouver.