

"Amendments to the Supreme Court Act to make the Supreme Court of Canada the court of last resort for Canada will be submitted for your consideration.

"You will be asked to approve, subject to the approval of the United States authorities, the agreement concluded in 1941 for the Development of Navigation and Power in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin.

"You will be asked to make the further legislative provision necessary to implement the agreements for the sale of agricultural products to the United Kingdom.

"With a view to assisting in the restoration of world trade, so vital to general security and our own prosperity, Canada participated in formulating the Charter for the International Trade Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which will be submitted for your approval. Within the next few months Canada will engage in further negotiations with thirteen other countries to broaden the scope of the tariff concessions which we obtained at Geneva in 1947. The Government will continue to press vigorously for the lowering of tariff and other barriers and, as quickly as possible, the expansion of trade on a multilateral basis.

EXPORT MARKETS

"Meanwhile the Government is seeking to remove specific obstacles to the continued sales of Canadian products in our traditional export markets, and to that end is co-operating closely with the nations concerned in the implementation of the European Recovery Programme.

"The Continuing Committee established by the Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom to review the progress of trade between the two countries is presently meeting in London.

"In the interests of both domestic and foreign trade, legislation will be introduced with the object of promoting extensive and adequately safeguarded use of the national trade mark 'Canada Standard' associated with goods which conform to prescribed standards, and of requiring proper labelling of goods to prevent deception of the public.

"Improvement in our United States dollar position has resulted in the removal of certain restrictions imposed in November, 1947. Further restrictions will be removed as the position improves. So long as trading and financial conditions remain unstable, a degree of control over foreign exchange will be required. You will, accordingly, be asked to extend the Foreign Exchange Control Act for a further period.

"The Report of the Royal Commission on Prices will be laid before you as soon as it has been submitted to the Government.

"Your approval will also be sought for legislation to continue in force steel control and a limited number of price controls, including

control over the rental of housing accommodation.

"You will be asked to make legislative provision for governmental assistance by loan to the producers of basic steel for the purpose of increasing production.

"The Governments of the provinces have been advised that the Federal Government is prepared to discontinue rent control in any province in which the Government expresses the desire to assume the jurisdiction.

"The provision of housing has received and continues to receive close attention. More new housing units were provided during the last calendar year than ever before.

"Your approval will be sought for the establishment of a Department of Reconstruction and Development to continue the functions now vested in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, including the ministerial responsibility for the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAY

"A measure for assistance in the provision of a transcontinental highway will also be laid before you.

"A Royal Commission has been appointed to enquire into and report upon all questions of economic policy within the jurisdiction of Parliament arising out of the operation and maintenance of national transportation. Together with the findings of the investigation by the Board of Transport Commissioners, the Report of the Royal Commission should furnish Parliament and the Government with the basis for a sound transportation policy.

"The National Health Programme, inaugurated by the Government last year, is receiving co-operation from all the provinces. In supplementing provincial health measures, the programme has already made a contribution to the health facilities of Canada and will thereby bring increasing benefit to our people.

"A Bill will be introduced to broaden the scope of the Family Allowances Act, as a further instalment of the policy of the Government to provide a national standard of social security and human welfare designed to assure the greatest possible measure of social justice for all Canadians.

"The organization of the armed forces to provide for unification and coordination has been pressed forward. Steady progress has been made in the recruitment and training of officers and men of the active and reserve forces, so that the Navy, Army and Air Force may be in a position to meet the defence needs of Canada as these may change from time to time.

"Conditions of service in the armed forces are being further improved, and as rapidly as the results of research can be adequately tested, additional equipment is being made available. Amendments to existing legislation with respect to the armed forces will be recommended for your consideration.

"Other measures to which your attention will be directed include Bills respecting Forest Conservation, Overseas Telecommunications, the Control and Regulation of Inter-provincial and International Pipe Lines, and assistance for the Canadian Shipbuilding Industry. Your approval will be sought for measures to amend the Industrial Development Bank Act, the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, and the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

"It is the view of my Ministers that there should be an examination of the activities of agencies of the Federal Government relating to radio, films, television, the encouragement of arts and sciences, research, the preservation of our national records, a national library, museums, exhibitions, relations in these fields with international organizations, and activities generally which are designed to enrich our national life, and to increase our own consciousness of our national heritage and knowledge of Canada abroad. For this purpose, the Government intends at an early date to establish a Royal Commission.

Members of the House of Commons:

"You will be asked to make the customary provision for essential services.

"Prosperous conditions now prevailing are being reflected in the buoyant level of national revenues; a condition to which due consideration is being given by my Ministers in the preparation of forthcoming budgetary proposals.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

"The birth of a son to Their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh has been the occasion of widespread rejoicing. Happiness over the birth of the Royal Prince has been tempered by regret over the indisposition of His Majesty the King. The people of Canada hope and pray for the complete recovery of the King's health.

"Since the close of your last session, Mr. Mackenzie King has retired as Prime Minister. I feel it is the hope of all Canadians that Mr. King will be spared, over a long period and with less exacting responsibilities, to continue his distinguished and devoted service to Canada and the free world.

"May Divine Providence bless your deliberations."

DR. COLEMAN'S APPOINTMENT: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on January 26 the appointment of Dr. E.H. Coleman, former Under-Secretary of State, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Canada in Cuba. This announcement was made as soon as the Canadian authorities had received a reply to the request which it is customary to address to a foreign Government for their agreement to a proposed appointment of a Head of Mission.

A brief biographical sketch of Dr. Coleman is as follows:

Born in Renfrew County, Ontario, in 1890. Educated at the University of Manitoba (LL.B. and LL.D.). Called to the Bar of Manitoba in 1922 and made a King's Counsel in 1929. Served as Private Secretary to the late Honourable Sir James Aikins, 1911-1918; Secretary-Treasurer of Canadian Bar Association, 1919-1933; Dean of Manitoba Law School, 1929-1933. Appointed Under-Secretary of State and Deputy Registrar General of Canada in 1933. Was Canadian representative at the Conference on Enemy Patents in London, 1946, and at the Commonwealth Conference of Nationality in London, 1947. Was made C.M.G. in 1944.

FARM CASH INCOME AT RECORD: Canadian farmers received an estimated record cash income of \$1,762,814,000 from the sale of farm products during the first nine months of 1948, an increase of more than 37 per cent over the \$1,282,112,000 shown for the same period of 1947, according to the Bureau of Statistics. With the inclusion of supplementary cash payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act of 1946, 1947 and 1948, the Wheat Acreage Reduction Act of 1946 and 1947, and the Prairie Farm Income Act of 1946, amounting to \$15,821,000, their cash receipts aggregated \$1,778,635,000 as against \$1,292,306,000 for the same period of 1947.

The gain can be attributed in large part to a significant increase in the prices paid for farm products and to the substantial sums paid out as grain equalization and adjusting payments by the Canadian Wheat Board and western grain companies. During the first nine months of 1948, the Canadian Wheat Board paid out in the form of equalization and adjusting payments \$153,560,000 on wheat, \$3,762,000 on oats and \$4,684,000 on flaxseed. In addition, western grain companies paid out a total of \$7,625,000 on oats and barley delivered to them by farmers during the period, August 1 to October 21, 1947.

According to the index number of farm prices of agricultural products, the general level of farm product prices during the first nine months of 1948 was approximately 20 per cent higher than for the corresponding period a year earlier. Generally higher prices for grains, together with increased marketings of wheat and flaxseed, have more than offset smaller deliveries of coarse grains to give an increased cash income from this source in 1948.

Total cash income of \$968,496,000 from the sale of livestock and livestock products during the first nine months of 1948 was 36 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of 1947, while the total derived from the sale of field crops was \$765,986,000 as compared with \$550,552,000, a rise of 39 per cent. The sale of dairy products was the top contributor to the 1948 total, followed by wheat and cattle calves.

Without exception, gains in cash income