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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

PRECEDENCE OF HIGH COMMISSIONERS: The Government of Canada has had under consideration the application in Canada of the recommendations concerning the precedence of High Commissioners made at the recent meeting in London of Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

The Canadian Government has decided, in consultation with the Governments of other countries of the Commonwealth, that High Commissioners at Ottawa will rank with Ambassadors according to the date of the presentation of Letters of Credence of Ambassadors and the date of arrival of High Commissioners at Ottawa, except that the position of Dean of the Diplomatic Corps will continue to be held by the senior foreign Ambassador.

Accordingly High Commissioners will take precedence as if they had had the rank of Ambassador when they first arrived in Ottawa. They will rank among themselves according to the date of their arrival at Ottawa and not, as heretofore, according to the seniority of Commonwealth countries.

Ministers Plenipotentiary and Chargés d'Affaires ad interim at Ottawa will continue to have the precedence previously accorded them by courtesy; that is to say, they will follow the new category of Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

1949 U.K. QUOTAS: The United Kingdom Board of Trade has announced that the 1949 schedule of quotas under the United Kingdom Token Import Scheme will be continued on the same basis as in 1948. Some 230 Canadian exporters hold quotas to ship under this scheme.

Quotas for 1949 will cover almost 200 items, and will be maintained at 20 per cent of the average pre-war imports during the basic period from 1936 to 1938 inclusive. Any Canadian exporter having a pre-war market in the United Kingdom for any of these commodities is now assured of obtaining British import licences for token shipments. Shipments may commence immediately, and the Export Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, will approve and certify token shipment vouchers for eligible exporters. Any unused balances remaining from 1948 quotas must be cleared through British Customs by March 31, 1949.

URANIUM FLOOR PRICE: With a view to the encouragement of further prospecting for radioactive minerals, two years have been added to the period during which the Government will guarantee a floor price for uranium, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced December 20.

Earlier this year, the Government announced the establishment of a guaranteed floor price for uranium ores and concentrates during the subsequent five years. The expiry date for this guarantee has now been extended to March 31, 1955.

The original terms of the floor-price guarantee have not been changed. By these terms, the government-owned Eldorado Mining and Refining (1944) Limited will purchase acceptable ores and concentrates with a minimum uranium content equivalent to 10 per cent by weight of uranium oxide (U₃O₈). The Crown company will pay a minimum of \$2.75 per pound of contained uranium oxide, f.o.b. rail.