

maintain the defence forces necessary to continue an active role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"Important negotiations are now under way between the British Government and the European Economic Community following the decision of Britain to ascertain whether terms can be negotiated on which it might become a member of that Community. My Ministers are following these negotiations carefully, having in mind that their outcome should give full recognition of the vital interests of the Commonwealth and to Canada's position and interests as a major trading nation.

"My Government in recent international meetings has reiterated its support for the expansion of world trade on a multilateral non-discriminatory basis and its readiness to play a constructive role in the promotion of world trade. It stands ready to work with other countries in the pursuit of this goal..."

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

The Speech dealt, from this point on, chiefly with domestic matters, notably: (1) Steps already taken toward the amending of the constitution of Canada; (2) legislation requiring business and labour organizations to submit reports concerning "the extent and nature of their operations and whether, and to what extent, they may be owned or controlled outside Canada"; (3) the introduction of "a measure relating to the Senate"; and various social-welfare measures including "an increase in the amount of the universal old age pension".

COMMITTEE ON GRAIN HANDLING

Mr. George Hees, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced recently that, following discussions with Mr. Alvin Hamilton, Minister of Agriculture, an interdepartmental committee had been appointed to study problems of the storage and handling of grain in Canada.

The committee includes representation from the Departments of Agriculture, Finance, Trade and Commerce, and Transport, and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The board of Grain Commissioners and the National Harbours Board are also represented. Officials from other government departments and agencies may be called upon for their services as required.

INVENTORY, APPRAISAL AND STUDY

The major function of the committee will be to prepare an initial assessment of the adequacy of Canada's present grain-storage and handling facilities in relation to current and future requirements for the storage and movement of Canadian grain. This will involve a thorough inventory and appraisal of existing facilities, together with an intensive study of the grain-market potential, both at home and abroad. The committee will also study the pattern of grain movement with a view to determining what factors, if any, hamper the rapid and efficient flow of grain from farm to consumer.

Other items falling within the committee's purview are the impact of the St. Lawrence Seaway on the pattern of grain storage and handling, the handling of United States' grain through Canadian ports, and related problems.

While it is not the intention of the committee to hold public hearings, individuals and groups associated with the grain trade may be asked to cooperate in the provision of background material and essential data.

The committee is as follows: W.D. Porter, Dominion Bureau of Statistics (chairman); E.E. Baxter, Board of Grain Commissioners; J.W. Cannon, Department of Agriculture; R.M. Esdale, Department of Trade and Commerce; G.G. McLeod, Department of Transport; C.H. Malcolm; National Harbours Board; M.W. Menzies, Department of Agriculture; E.A. Oestreicher, Department of Finance; W.L. Postumus, Department of Trade and Commerce; and G.M. Schuthe, Department of Trade and Commerce.

ANOTHER NORTHERN DELICACY

Sweetgrass buffalo steaks will soon be adding a northern savour to Canadian menus. Prime northern buffalo was the first new food delicacy brought to Canadians in 1962, when some 250,000 pounds of top-quality meat from Wood Buffalo National Park went on sale from coast to coast on January 17.

Buffalo meat from Elk Island National Park in Alberta goes on sale this year with the Sweetgrass variety. Westerners need no introduction to Elk Island buffalo.

ORIGIN OF NAME

The Sweetgrass herd gets its name from the pasturage of its immense northern range. Wood Buffalo National Park, 17,300 square miles in area straddling northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, is home of the largest known buffalo herd in the world. How the meat has become plentiful enough to market is a tale of near-extinction and dramatic "comeback", of time and space for the patient processes of scientific game management to restore the herds.

This is prime meat, selected, inspected, graded and packed in the Park's big Sweetgrass abattoir. From there it is shipped to Edmonton for cold storage and distribution.

HARVESTING A RESOURCE

The buffalo-meat-marketing plan is part of a resource-harvesting programme being carried on by the Industrial Division of Northern Affairs at many points in the north. Biologists set the present Wood Buffalo National Park population at from 11,000 to 12,000 animals, the "carrying" capacity of the range. At Elk Island the herd numbers about 600. Besides the Wood Buffalo herds are the animals that roam outside the park. Here "comeback" has reached the point where sportsmen who like to climb on a horse can try bringing home their own steaks in season. The take is limited to one buffalo to each hunter. A maximum of 100 big game licenses for buffalo is issued each year.