

THE CORONATION: In a nation-wide broadcast on Coronation Day, June 2, His Excellency the Governor-General, Mr. Vincent Massey, stressed the special significance for Canadians of the ceremonies which on that day were taking place in London.

The following is an excerpt from his address:

"To Canada, to all Canadians, it means much more than a spectacle. The Coronation is, indeed, the greatest and most moving historical pageant of our time. But to us it is something more than that -- more even than the history which is our history. It is part of ourselves.

"It is linked in a very special way with our national life. It stands for qualities and institutions which mean Canada to every one of us and which for all our differences and all our variety have kept Canada Canadian.

"How much the Crown has done to give us our individual character as a nation in the Americas. It shapes our contribution to Western democracy. The Crown itself, as a golden object, may repose in London, but as a cherished symbol it plays and did play a unique role in our national life long before our Sovereign became officially The Queen of Canada.

"Great truths are brought home to us by what we have seen and heard today -- the sense of continuity, of oneness with the past derived from our ancient monarchy; the unifying force which comes from that something in our Constitution which stands above all our diversity, and which everyone of us can respect. The Queen wears 'the Sign which unites us all'.

"This great and moving ceremony, means for us then, certain things which are blended, and set forth in the dignity and splendour of the Crown itself, and in the simplicity and the sincerity of the Person who wears it...."

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SALES FINANCING UP: Unprecedented increases in financing of retail instalment sales raised the volume of financing by sales finance and acceptance companies in 1952 to an all-time high total of \$818,633,000, according to the Bureau's annual report. This amount was 75 per cent above the previous peak of \$467,302,000 in 1951. Balances outstanding at the end of 1952 totalled \$539,807,000, an increase of 72 per cent over the \$313,234,000 a year earlier.

Sales financing of consumers' goods almost doubled in 1952, rising to \$590,994,000 from \$299,558,000 the year before. Financing of used passenger cars again formed the largest item within the section, increasing to \$281,599,000 from \$141,488,000. New passenger car financing rose in total from \$113,660,000 to \$195,185,000.

HIGH LEVEL ACTIVITY: Advances from last year in production, employment and domestic trade continued through March, to maintain a high level of activity in the first quarter of this year, states the Canadian Statistical Review in its monthly summary of current economic conditions. Lower values of domestic exports were a major exception to the general gains, and in some sectors of the economy, such as forestry operations, pulp and paper output, and ocean fishing, there was lower activity than in the first quarter of 1952.

The Bureau's preliminary index of industrial production for March stood at 247.0, which was 11 per cent higher than in March, 1952. The result was that the index recorded a production gain of 10 per cent for the first quarter over the first quarter last year.

In the same quarterly comparison, the manufacturing component of the index also averaged 10 per cent higher, a greater rate of advance than in any 1952-51 comparison. The durable goods sector showed an increase of more than 15 per cent in the same comparison, and - like the index of total production - averaged higher in the first quarter this year than for 1952 as a whole. The non-durable goods sector, which had shown a slightly larger decline than durables in early 1952, advanced nearly six per cent in this year's January-March period.

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FIND PEARY RECORDS: Canada's northernmost mountain peak has surrendered records placed there nearly half a century ago by a famed Arctic explorer.

Glaciologist Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith, of Ottawa, a Defence Research Board scientist investigating the ice shelf bordering the northern coast line of Ellesmere Island just 400 miles south of the North Pole, has recovered records left in 1906 by U.S. explorer Admiral R.E. Peary in a cairn on Cape Columbia mountain peak. From Cape Columbia in 1909 Peary made a dramatic 40-mile-a-day trek over Arctic Ocean ice floes.

With Hattersley-Smith is geologist Robert Blackadar, 23, also of Ottawa, of the Geological Survey of Canada who is examining the geology of the rugged coastline. In a recent message to DRB headquarters, Hattersley-Smith stated that he had found historical records. Details have now been received in a following letter dated May 22 in which he states "From the summit of Cape Columbia peak we recovered Peary's 1906 records and a piece of the silk ensign which three years later he flew at the North Pole. The record looks as if written yesterday."

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Over \$3,500,000 worth of steel wire fencing is sold in Canada annually.