

ments have been made to the Canada Grain Act, affecting the grain growing interests, and equally important amending legislation has been enacted affecting live stock interests.

The increasingly satisfactory showing of the Canadian National Railways' net earnings affords concrete evidence of our expanding trade and commerce. The extension of the Canadian National railway system by another comprehensive program of branch line construction, will make possible the rapid development of communities hitherto lacking railway facilities. Further substantial provision has also been made for work on the Hudson Bay route. The Agreement concerning the Grand Trunk Pacific Debenture Issue has been approved.

The expansion of our trade, which is rapidly penetrating the diversified markets of the world, is further reflected in the increasing importation of raw material for the use of our manufacturers and a corresponding increase in our exportation of manufactured goods. Our exports of food products continue satisfactory. Supplementing the work of the Empire Marketing Board, provision has been made to assist in a substantial manner the marketing of Canadian produce in Great Britain. Arrangements are also nearing completion for the improved steamship service to the British West Indies.

The favourable consideration given the recommendations of the Royal Commission appointed to examine and report upon conditions in the Maritime Provinces, has been received with general approval throughout the Dominion. The substantial money grants made to these provinces, the reduction to be effected in their freight rates, the encouragement given the production of domestic fuel from coal mined in Canada, the provision for a Deputy Minister of Fisheries, and for Harbour Commissions at Halifax and St. John, together with other administrative measures contemplated in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission, will, it is confidently expected, materially assist in furthering the economic prosperity of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and in advancing the welfare and unity of the whole Dominion.

The protection of the public revenues has been enhanced by the heavier penalties provided for violation of the Customs and Excise laws and by the consolidation of the Customs,

Excise and Income Tax branches of the public service into one Department of the Government to be known as the Department of National Revenue.

Additional protection for the public has been afforded by the amendments made to the laws respecting insurance, loan and trust companies.

Amendments of importance to ex-soldiers have been made to the Pension Act, extending the period for filing pension claims, and making provision for a second appeal in case of newly discovered evidence.

The position of the Civil Service of Canada has been improved with respect alike to salaries and superannuation.

To aid in the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Confederation, a National Committee has been incorporated. Its efforts have been directed to securing, in co-operation with the provinces, a worthy commemoration of this important stage in our national development. Especially appropriate is the constitution at this time of a Federal District Commission with enlarged jurisdiction and powers in respect of the permanent beautification of the Capital of our Dominion.

Members of the House of Commons:

It is gratifying to know that you have been able to effect further substantial relief from taxation. I thank you for the provision you have made for the public service:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The Minister Plenipotentiary accredited by His Majesty to represent the Dominion of Canada in the United States has presented his credentials and has entered upon his duties. The President of the United States has appointed the former United States Ambassador to Belgium as Minister Plenipotentiary in Canada; the new Minister will shortly take up his duties at Ottawa. This exchange of representatives will undoubtedly help to maintain and develop the existing good relations between the two countries.

The prosperity which Canada so happily enjoys at the present time gives every indication of continuing in increasing measure. For this, and many other blessings upon our land, I join with you in heartfelt thanks to Divine Providence.