

"While, therefore, GATT has thoroughly justified its existence, I would say that its fate depends upon what will happen in the next few weeks. I am, of course, referring to the proposals now before the Congress of the United States for the renewal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act and for the passing of the Customs Simplification Bill. Of these two proposals the former is the more vital. GATT has been developed largely upon the basis of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act and it is difficult to conceive of its continuance if the Act is not renewed.

"The United States by the nature of things has to provide the leadership in the new approach to the solution of the problems of international trade and payments. Taking any of the indices commonly used to measure economic strength, we find that the United States represents about one half of the economy of the whole world. Without the leadership of the United States there is the danger of the world splitting up into a number of regional economic blocs, each of which would be discriminating against the others. This sort of chaos would be the negation of stability. Such economic instability would breed political instability. Accordingly, it may be said that the success of the free world in solving its economic problems is of decisive importance in the struggle against Soviet Communism."

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LIBERALS WIN IN NOVA SCOTIA: The Liberal Party under Premier Angus L. Macdonald was returned to power with a reduced majority in Nova Scotia's general election on May 26. All three party leaders were re-elected. The popular vote tabulation showed the Liberals with 49.7 per cent of the total and the Progressive Conservatives with 42.9 per cent. Recounts are said to be likely in two ridings where the results were close.

The following were the election results, compared with the results of the 1949 election:

	1953	1949
Liberals	22	28
P.C.'s	13	7
C.C.F.	2	2
Total	37	37

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RUNNYMEDE UNVEILING: The next-of-kin of nearly 3,000 RCAF officers and men who gave their lives in the Second World War during operations from bases in the United Kingdom and North-West Europe and who have no known grave have received invitations from the Imperial War Graves Commission, to attend the unveiling by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial at historic Runnymede in England on October 17.

WELFARE SPENDING: Speaking before the Canadian Welfare Council in Ottawa on May 28 on the maintenance of a proper relationship between expenditures in the welfare field and total national income and resources, the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, said:

"In 1937, when our Government spent \$341,000,000 on social measures of all kinds, Canada's national income was \$4,062,000,000. Social welfare expenditures therefore represented 8.4 per cent of our national income.

"Fifteen years later, in 1952, these expenditures had been increased more than four-fold to \$1,499,000,000 but our national income had risen to \$18,000,000,000, more than four times what it was in 1937. As a result, in 1952, our social welfare expenditures amounted to 8.3 per cent of our national income.

"In other words, after the passage of fifteen years, the percentage of our national income devoted to humanitarian purposes by Canadian Governments in 1952 was practically the same as in 1937."

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FOREST INVENTORY: Contributions by the federal Government to provincial forest inventory and reforestation programmes, during the second year of the five-year forestry agreements with eight of the provinces of Canada, exceeded one million dollars, Resources Minister Robert H. Winters has announced. This represents an increase of more than 25 per cent over the previous year.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: Five countries are represented in the Electrical Group at this year's Canadian International Trade Fair in Toronto, opening June 1 for two weeks. This section is made up in order of volume of Canada, with 4,560 square feet, England with 2,460 square feet, then Germany with 1,200 square feet followed by Belgium and Switzerland.

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RECORD AUTO ENTRIES: Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits in April totalled 106,452 -- a new high for the month. This was 10 per cent above last year's April total of 96,379. Cumulative entries for the first four months of this year rose 13 per cent to 282,884 as compared with 249,446 in the corresponding 1952 period.

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SPOONS FOR CORONATION DAY BABIES: As a personal gift in commemoration of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Governor-General, Mr. Massey, will present a small silver spoon bearing an appropriate inscription to every child born in Canada on Coronation Day.