



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**PRIME MINISTER'S RETIREMENT:** Addressing the National Liberal Federation dinner, January 20, Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced his desire to retire as leader of the Liberal party. He asked that a Liberal convention be called to name his successor. (P. 7-11).

**SUCCESSION TO LEADERSHIP:** In Winnipeg yesterday, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, (according to Press despatches) told interviewers that he would give serious consideration to the matter if asked to take over the Liberal leadership on retirement of Mr. Mackenzie King. "If it were something which would further rather than retard Canadian unity," he said, "I don't see how I could refuse. On the other hand, if there were any indication of a split in the party on racial or religious lines I should not like to be a party to such a split."

**CABINET CHANGES:** The Prime Minister has announced the following changes in the Cabinet:

Rt. Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Minister of Veterans' Affairs, appointed to the Senate.

Hon. M. F. Gregg, V.C., Minister of Fisheries, appointed Minister of Veterans' Affairs.

Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Reconstruction and Supply appointed Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, temporarily appointed Minister of Fisheries.

Hon. J. J. McCann, who held the two portfolios of Revenue and National War Services, resigns the War Services portfolio but continues as Minister of National Revenue.

The appointment of Mr. Mackenzie to the Senate will mean a by-election in Vancouver Centre, the seat he represented in the House of Commons. There are now three vacancies in the House of Commons and nine in the Senate.

The Prime Minister further announced that the work of the Department of National War Services having been completed, Chester H. Payne, I.S.O., had, on January 1, 1948, begun the usual leave prior to retirement from the position of Associate Deputy Minister to which he was appointed on March 23, 1943.

**EXPORTS INCREASE:** Canada's exports during 1947 were valued at \$2,775 millions, which is over three times the average annual value of her exports in the prewar years 1935-1939, and twenty per cent greater than in 1946, according to a statement issued today by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C. D. Howe. It must be recognized, however, that the general price rise in most products during the year under review contributed in large part to the increase over previous peacetime years.

The statement continues: There were few pronounced changes from the preceding years in the geographical distribution of Canada's export trade in 1947. The United States and Great Britain continued to provide the principal markets for Canadian products, with over 64