

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE ENDS: The House of Commons, on February 4, defeated by a vote of 99 to 69 the Progressive Conservative amendment moved at the beginning of the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. The main motion for the adoption of the Address was then carried on division.

The C.C.F. and Social Credit groups, with one independent member, voted with the Progressive Conservatives for the six-point amendment which would have had the House declare that the Government had failed to retain and expand Canada's overseas markets, solve unemployment, relieve taxpayers from excessive taxation, eliminate waste and extravagance in the Government, encourage the processing of natural resources and co-operate with the provinces in developing a national health insurance plan.

In earlier debate Social Credit and C.C.F. amendments critical of the Government had been defeated.

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TO STUDY BBC WORKINGS: Mr. John Dunn, Assistant to the Director of Network Co-ordination for the CBC, has been awarded the Imperial Relations Trust Bursary for 1955, the CBC announced February 4.

The bursary will enable Mr. Dunn to study the operations and see the establishments of the BBC in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. He will also visit various broadcasting organizations on the Continent. He sails for the United Kingdom February 8.

The bursary is awarded yearly to a person in the CBC active in broadcasting, and stems from an anonymous gift in 1937 to Lord Baldwin of Bewdley to endow any object best calculated to strengthen the ties that bind together the countries of the Commonwealth.

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DISTINGUISHED VISITORS: The Department of External Affairs has announced that Prime Ministers Robert Menzies of Australia and Mario Scelba of Italy will visit Ottawa in March and that General Paul Eugene Magloire, President of Haiti, and Mrs. Magloire will visit Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec this month, as well as Mr. Paul Henri Spaak, Belgian Foreign Minister.

Gen. and Mrs. Magloire will be here February 9-14, Mr. Spaak February 24 to March 2, Mr. Menzies March 9-14, and Mr. Scelba March 26-27.

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The fresh-water surface of Canada constitutes over six per cent of the country's total area.

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The people of Newfoundland live in 1,300 communities, scattered along the island's picturesque 6,000-mile coastline.

SEAWAY OUTLOOK: Canadian ship operators on the Great Lakes "will find greater opportunities" when the St. Lawrence Seaway is completed with an increase in the bulk trade more than offsetting any loss in other business to foreign competitors. Likewise, Canadian shipyards on the Lakes will find that "the Seaway will bring more business in repairs and maintenance than it takes away in vessel construction."

These views were expressed by Mr. G. G. McLeod, Department of Transport economist, in addressing members of the Marine Club of Toronto at their annual meeting. He emphasized that these were his own personal opinions.

With respect to foreign competition on the Great Lakes, Mr. McLeod expressed the view that "specialized lake carriers have an advantage of their own in that they can carry twice or perhaps three times the load of an ocean vessel of the same draft." This advantage would, he thought, more than offset the cheaper constructing and operating costs of foreign ships.

He thought that "foreign vessels may get a good bit though not all of the package freight and general cargo trade, but only a small portion of the bulk trade."

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SEA HARVEST UP 10 P.C.: Canadian sea-fishermen landed 10% more fish in 1954 than in the preceding year and the value of the catch rose 8%. The year's landings weighed 1,900,512,000 pounds valued at \$82,762,000 as compared with 1,733,743,000 pounds valued at \$76,347,000 in 1953. December landings amounted to 119,050,000 pounds worth \$4,321,000, up 1% in volume and 6% in value over the same month of 1953.

West-coast landings in 1954 rose to 592,640,000 pounds from 542,521,000 and the value to \$33,598,000 from \$30,952,000.

Atlantic-coast landings in 1954 rose to 1,307,872,000 pounds from 1,191,222,000 and the value to \$49,164,000 from \$45,395,000.

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NEW HOUSING RECORDS: Residential construction in Canada reached record levels in the year 1954 with new top figures set for the number of units completed, the number started and the number in various stages of construction at year's end, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The number of new dwelling units completed in 1954 rose 5.3% to 101,965 from 96,839 in 1953, while the number started climbed 10.9% to 113,527 units from 102,409, and the number still under construction at the end of the year 14.5% to 68,641 units from 59,923 at the end of 1953.

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Ontario is particularly inviting to visitors who like to roam and fish through unspoiled forest lands.