

Table of Precedence; position of Roman Catholic church dignitaries

1. The Prime Minister, referring to discussion at the meeting of July 6th, 1954, said that the manner in which church dignitaries were referred to in the Table of Precedence, which had come into force on September 1st, 1954, had given rise to some difficulty. Heading 12 of the Table referred to "the prelate of the Roman Catholic church having the highest relative precedence in that church in Canada" while, in fact, the Roman Catholic church had several dignitaries of equal status and rank in Canada.

It was suggested that the reference in question be changed to read "a prelate of the Roman Catholic church having high relative precedence in that church in Canada". In this manner, it would be possible to give the proper precedence to the highest ranking Roman Catholic dignitary in whatever locality a state function happened to be held. The Apostolic Delegate to Canada had, for some years, been given precedence in group 12 as a courtesy. By making a minor modification in the footnote to heading 12, it would be possible to give Roman Catholic dignitaries, if more than one were present at any function, the same relative precedence among themselves as that recognized by the Roman Catholic Church.

2. The Cabinet agreed that Her Majesty's approval be sought for the change in the Table of Precedence regarding the position of Roman Catholic church dignitaries as recommended by the Prime Minister; an Order in Council to be passed accordingly.

(Order in Council P.C. 1954-1900, Dec. 1, 1954).

Legislation; War Veterans Allowance Act amendment

3. The Minister of Veterans Affairs referred to discussion at the meeting of November 23rd when consideration was given to a proposal to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act which would involve no change in the basic rate of benefit, but only an increase in the allowable income ceilings from \$720 to \$900 a year for single veterans and from \$1200 to \$1560 a year for veterans with dependents, and which would also entail a somewhat more liberal use of the Assistance Fund. The total additional expenditure involved in this proposal would amount to approximately \$8 million per annum. It had been agreed that he and the Minister of Finance should consider further and report on the desirability of adopting a formula under which the basic rate of benefit would be increased from \$50 to \$60 a month for single veterans and from \$90 to \$108 a month for married veterans, together

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