

thermo-electric plants in the Atlantic area to meet at the lowest possible cost the power requirements of growth and industrial development in that region. The recent adjustment in the tariff on potatoes should also have a favourable influence on its economy and on the economy of other farming areas.

"A Royal Commission has been established to review the financial position of the Province of Newfoundland in accordance with the terms of union of that province with Canada.

"The Report of the Royal Commission on Radio and Television Broadcasting has been completed and presented for your consideration.

"The brutal suppression of the Hungarian people by the armed forces of the Soviet Union served to emphasize the continued need for the greatest possible degree of unanimity of purpose among the nations of the free world and the importance of maintaining an adequate system of collective defence.

"My ministers continue to believe that our position in the Commonwealth and firm support of the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are essential contributions to the advancement of our aim of preserving peace and promoting prosperity throughout the world.

"In the course of the present session you have approved important items of legislation of lasting benefit to the Canadian people.

"You have authorized the Government to enter into agreements with the provinces for the establishment of a nation-wide system of insurance programmes for hospital care and diagnostic services. This legislation constitutes an important step forward in helping to improve the standard of health for the Canadian population and in relieving individual citizens from the worrisome burdens of large hospital bills.

"You have approved legislation for the establishment of a Canada Council for the encouragement of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Undoubtedly, both the fund for scholarships and grants and the fund for assistance to universities for capital expansion projects will accelerate the cultural and intellectual growth of the nation.

"To the same end the annual federal grants for universities have been doubled.

"Provision has been made to assist the transportation to Canada of Hungarian refugees. Special arrangements have also been made for the movement of large numbers of British, French and other immigrants to this country.

"In furtherance of the Government's policy to maintain a high standard of social welfare in this country, increases are being made in the scale of payments to veterans under the Pension Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act, as well as payments under the Family Allowances Act, the Old Age Security Act, the Old Age Assistance Act, the Disabled Persons Act and the Blind Persons Act.

"You have approved a measure authorizing the payment of the equivalent of full taxes on federal property in all municipalities where such property receives normal municipal services.

"You have approved legislation authorizing the continuance of the Canadian Wheat Board as the sole marketing agency for western wheat, oats and barley. You have also enacted amendments to the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, the Prairie Grain Producers Interim Financing Act and the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, as well as a measure extending the scope and provisions of the Canadian Farm Loan Act.

"Other measures enacted during this session included the Pacific Salmon Fisheries Convention Act, the Pacific Fur Seals Convention Act, the Fertilizers Act, and amendments to the Export and Import Permits Act, the Territorial Lands Act, and Canada Shipping Act, the Currency, Mint and Exchange Fund Act, the Export Credits Insurance Act, the Judges Act, the Exchequer Court Act, the Quebec Savings Banks Act, the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act, the Eastern Rocky Mountain Forest Conservation Act, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, and the Prisons and Reformatories Act.

This concluded the fifth session of the twenty-second Parliament.

"Members of the House of Commons:

"I thank you for making provision for the public service during the period required for the holding of a general election and the assembling of a new parliament.

"Honourable Members of the Senate":

"Members of the House of Commons":

"Let me give expression to our humble gratitude for the great blessings which Divine Providence has bestowed upon us and upon our beloved country. May He continue to guide us as we work together to maintain and secure the peace, prosperity and well being we now enjoy."

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ECONOMY GROWTH: In a special comparison of the economies of Canada and the United States issued April 16, the Bureau of Statistics announced that in the seven years 1946-53, Canadian national production increased by 104 per cent and that of the United States by only 74 per cent. In the years 1953-56, the Canadian increase was 22 per cent and that of the United States 14 per cent. American national production rose to \$412,400,000,000 in 1956 from \$209,200,000,000 in 1946. Canadian production increased to \$29,900,000,000 from \$12,000,000,000.

Canada's accomplishments were achieved with a population that increased in 1956 to 16,100,000 from 12,300,000 in 1946. In that decade the American population rose to 168,100,000 from 141,400,000. The number of persons with jobs rose in Canada to 5,500,000 from 4,700,000 and in the United States to 65,000,000 from 55,300,000.