

THE NEW PARLIAMENT: The debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, as is customary, occupied Parliament throughout the first week of the new session. After party leaders had spoken on November 16 the debate was thrown open to private members and discussions were still proceeding on November 19.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. George A. Drew, opened on "leaders' day" with congratulations to the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, on the victory of his Government in the summer election and was thanked by the Prime Minister for his "gracious words". The Leader of the C.C.F. group, Mr. M. J. Coldwell, and the Leader of the Social Credit group, Mr. Solon E. Low, each prefaced his remarks in speeches following that of the Prime Minister, with similar congratulations.

The speeches of the four leaders dealt almost completely with domestic affairs, Mr. Drew and Mr. Coldwell concluding their comments with proposed amendment and sub-amendment to the main motion.

The following was the text of the amendment submitted by Mr. Drew on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party:

"We respectfully represent to Your Excellency that the welfare of Canada is dependent upon free competition; and that the prosperity and security of all Canadians will be advanced by government policies which will restore markets for primary products and generally promote a high volume of international trade."

The sub-amendment submitted by Mr. Coldwell on behalf of the C.C.F. would make the amendment read:

"We respectfully represent to Your Excellency that the prosperity and security of all Canadians will be advanced by government policies which will restore markets for primary products and generally promote a high volume of international trade."

"We further represent that this House regrets that Your Excellency's advisers have failed to recommend legislation establishing a nation-wide health insurance programme, with provision for provincial participation."

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AID FOR QUAKE VICTIMS: The Department of External Affairs announced on November 19 that \$50,000 worth of evaporated milk is being loaded aboard the S.S. Columbia, at Quebec City, as part of the first shipment under the \$500,000 relief programme authorized by the Canadian Government on September 9 for the victims of the disastrous earthquakes in the Greek Ionian Islands last August.

The S.S. Columbia will call at St. John's Newfoundland, to pick up \$200,000 worth of codfish in addition to the evaporated milk. The ship will leave St. John's on November 23 and is expected to reach the Piraeus, the port of Athens, about December 9.

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE: The Department of External Affairs announced on November 20 that Mr. Jean Désy, Q.C., is being appointed Canadian Ambassador to France. He will succeed Major-General George P. Vanier whose retirement from public service was announced recently.

Mr. Désy was born in Montreal. He received his education at Laval University and the University of Paris. He practised law in Montreal from 1915 to 1917 and between 1919 and 1925 he taught at the University of Montreal and at the University of Paris. Mr. Désy joined the Department of External Affairs in 1925 and served as Counsellor at the Canadian Legation in Paris from 1928 until 1939. That year he was appointed Canadian Minister to Belgium and to The Netherlands. After his return to Canada in 1941 he was made Canadian Minister to Brazil, and in March, 1944, became Ambassador to that country. He held that post until September 1947, when he was appointed Canadian Minister to Italy. The following year he was made Ambassador to that country when our Mission there was raised to the status of Embassy.

Mr. Désy held the appointment of Canadian Ambassador to Italy until the end of 1951 when he returned to Canada and was seconded to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as Director General of the International Service. Recently Mr. Désy was sent to Europe on a mission involving a survey of Canadian Overseas Awards. Mr. Désy is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and Membre de L'Académie Diplomatique Internationale.

During his service with the Department of External Affairs Mr. Désy has attended several international conferences including the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco in 1945.

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SAVINGS BOND RECORD: Every record was topped as Canadians rolled up a total of \$654,-927,000 Series 8 Canada Savings Bonds, well over double the \$307,000,000 recorded at the end of the active campaign last year.

Ottawa officials of the Bank of Canada analysed late telegraphic reports on November 17 and said that 1,071,407 Canadians had placed orders for an average amount of \$611.28. Sales under the Payroll Savings Plan total \$187,-000,000; and it is expected that further reports will bring this close to \$200,000,000 - about 10% over last year.

But it was purchases by the general public through banks and investment dealers that provided the bulk of the total. Sales through banks alone total \$383,000,000 and through investment dealers \$85,000,000.

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In 1952 Canada's motion picture industry produced three feature-length films and 73 theatrical shorts of five minutes or longer.