

Of the national economy and impending legislation, it said:

"Although the national economy is in a generally healthy condition, the relatively poor wheat crop is being reflected by a small decline in the total national income. Some unemployment of a regional and seasonal nature is being experienced. To help meet this situation work on public construction projects already approved is being accelerated and you will be asked to make financial provision for construction in the programmes of various departments and agencies on a scale that will make possible a substantial increase in the total expenditures for this purpose.

"The Government proposes to introduce legislation immediately for the amendment of the Unemployment Insurance Act to provide for an increase in the duration and scale of supplementary winter benefits. It is also proposing to introduce, during the session, broader amendments designed to make Unemployment Insurance a more effective instrument in providing financial support to unemployed workers. . . ."

#### OTHER LEGISLATION

The Speech also announced Government plans that included provisions for home improvement loans, Government-backed loans to fishermen, improved pensions to the blind and allowances to war veterans, changes in federal grants to some municipalities, aid to marginal gold mines, amendments to the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act; and said, "a measure to control works which affect the normal flow of rivers which cross the international boundary will be proposed for the purpose of ensuring that natural resources are developed in the best interests of the Canadian public."

Details of these items of intended legislation, as well as others listed, will be given later in Parliament.

In the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, taken up by the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Mr. W. Earl Rowe, in the House on Monday, January 10, the Progressive Conservative and C.C.F. Parties submitted motions of non-confidence in the Government.

The Progressive Conservative motion, with which Mr. Rowe concluded, proposed the addition of the following to the Address:

"We regret that Your Excellency's advisers have failed to take or to recommend the necessary measures:

(a) to retain and expand Canada's markets abroad for our production, particularly of wheat and other products;

(b) to solve the urgent problem of unemployment;

(c) to relieve Canadian taxpayers from the burden of excessive taxation and thereby enable Canadian producers to lower their cost of production and to meet increasing competition;

(d) to eliminate waste and extravagance in Government and improve its efficiency;

(e) to facilitate and encourage the processing of our natural resources in Canada, and thereby increase opportunities and employment for Canadians;

(f) in co-operation with the Provinces to develop an effective contributory plan which will assure that every Canadian will have adequate hospital and medical services."

Mr. M.J. Coldwell, Leader of the C.C.F. Party, after a brief speech, proposed an amendment to the amendment to have the House declare that the Government has "deliberately returned to the policy of uncontrolled and unplanned private enterprise which resulted in the depression and unemployment of the prewar years, and that Your Excellency's advisers have failed to undertake the economic planning necessary to cope with the serious problems now facing the Canadian people."

#### THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent who followed Mr. Rowe, made a brief reference to Canadian trade policy in discussing the clauses of Mr. Rowe's amendment. On that topic he said in part:

"Here we all feel that expanding trade is desirable. We feel that it is almost necessary to the prosperity of the Canadian people, but we don't feel that it would be by high tariffs that expanding trade could be achieved in this country.

"It is perhaps unfortunate that the production costs of some of our commodities happen to be greater than those of other commodities from abroad that could be imported into this country. But it is nevertheless quite true that foreign trade must flow in both directions, and that you cannot have high exports unless you have at the same time high imports or extend credit or aid in the form of Canadian currency to enable our domestic producers to receive payment for their exports.

"The hon. gentleman has said that Canada has lost the United Kingdom market for the second time in his own period of political experience. There has been no loss of the United Kingdom market. There is no less desire in the United Kingdom to take goods from Canada than there was at any time, but it has so happened that, although the situation of the United Kingdom is improving and has been improving constantly and steadily; there is still a shortage of dollars that limits the quantities of Canadian goods they can import and for which they could provide the currency required. . . .

"Our Government, and I am sure the same would be true of any Government made up from the hon. gentleman's party, does not attempt to dictate to the Canadian people the sources from which they will take their supplies and does not attempt to dictate to them where they will, if they can, sell those products that they have for export.