

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Vol. 4 No. 12 January 28, 1949 INDEX TO INSIDE PAGES International Trade Fair..... Anti-Submarine Course...... 5 Fisheries Conference..... Steel Ingot Increase...... 5 Wholesale Sales Up...... 2 Wheat Marketings..... 5 Railway Operating Revenues...... 2 Petroleum Supplies..... 5 Dr. Coleman's Appointment..... 7 "Prices' and Price Indexes, 1944-47"..... 3 Ontario Manufacturing...... 4 · 68, 103 Dwelling Units..... 4 Security Transactions..... 8 Liverpool Office..... 4 P.M. To Visit Washington..... 8 Employment Again Up...... 8

WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT: The Fifth Session of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada opened at three p.m. on Wednesday, January 26.

The Speech from the Throne, read by His Excellency the Governor General, was as follows:

"Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

"The first concern of Government in world affairs is to ensure peace and security. To this end, Canada continues to support the principles of the United Nations Charter. Our foreign policy is based on the realities and dangers of the existing situation. One of these is the Communist menace. Until the United Nations are able to provide an adequate guarantee of peace and security, peace-loving nations will also be obliged to seek security by combining their strength. The North Atlantic nations, including Canada, are negotiating a Security Pact. The Treaty when concluded will be laid before you for approval. The North Atlantic Treaty will supplement the Treaty of Mutual Guarantee signed by the Western European nations at Brussels last year. Such regional arrangements are provided for in the United Nations Charter.

"Despite unsettled conditions and the disruptive activities of international Communism. the nations of Western Europe are making progress toward recovery. Aid from North America is contributing substantially to the restoration of economic activity, thereby increasing their ability to resist internal and external aggression.

"At home we have been blessed with good crops. Industrial expansion is taking place at an unprecedented rate. There have been few differences between employers and employees leading to stoppages in work. Inflationary pressures are less pronounced. Employment is at higher levels than ever before. In striking contrast with Communist countries, the free economy of our country is demonstrating its ability to provide for all a high standard of living, social justice and individual freedom. It is the view of my Ministers that a steady advance toward the goal of social justice for all is an effective safeguard against the influence of subversive doctrines.

"The people of Newfoundland, by a majority vote in a referendum, expressed their desire to enter Confederation. The precise terms of Union were subsequently negotiated with an authorized delegation from Newfoundland. You will be asked without delay to approve the agreement, signed on December 11, and to make provision for the entry of Newfoundland as a province of Canada on March 31. I am confident the Union will be of mutual advantage to Newfoundland and Canada.

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