

Speech from the Throne

quent upon his acceptance of an office of emolument under the crown.

Of Hon. Joseph Jean, member for the electoral district of Mercier, consequent upon his acceptance of an office of emolument under the crown.

Of Eugene Marquis, member for the electoral district of Kamouraska, consequent upon his acceptance of an office of emolument under the crown.

Of Elphège Marier, member for the electoral district of Jacques Cartier, consequent upon his acceptance of an office of emolument under the crown.

Of Léon J. Raymond, member for the electoral district of Gatineau, consequent upon his acceptance of an office of emolument under the crown.

Of Thomas Reid, member for the electoral district of New Westminster, consequent upon his being summoned to the Senate.

Of Benoit Michaud, member for the electoral district of Restigouche-Madawaska, by decease.

Of J. E. McMillin, member for the electoral district of Greenwood, by decease.

Accordingly new writs of election were issued for the said electoral districts respectively.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows: Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

There has been deep satisfaction in all parts of the country that the steady improvement in the health of the King has enabled His Majesty to resume most of his customary activities.

The opening of the twenty-first parliament is marked by the presence for the first time of the representatives of the new province of Newfoundland. It is a pleasure for me to welcome their participation in the national affairs of a greater Canada.

With the admission of the new province of Newfoundland the Canadian nation attained the geographical limits planned by the fathers of confederation. You will be asked at the present

[Mr. Speaker.]

session to approve measures designed to facilitate the attainment of the constitutional limits of our nationhood. To this end, a bill will be introduced to amend the Supreme Court Act so that the Supreme Court of Canada will become the final court of appeal for Canada.

You will also be asked to approve addresses praying the parliament of the United Kingdom to vest in the parliament of Canada the right to amend the constitution of Canada in relation to matters not coming within the jurisdiction of the legislatures of the provinces nor affecting the constitutional rights and privileges of the provinces or existing rights and privileges with respect to education or the use of the English and French languages.

My ministers will seek to arrange for early consultation with the provincial governments with a view to agreeing upon an appropriate procedure for making within Canada such other amendments to the constitution as may from time to time be required.

The hopes held four years ago for world peace and security under the aegis of the united nations have not yet been realized. The menace of communist totalitarianism continues to threaten the aspirations of men of good will. It is, however, gratifying that the North Atlantic treaty has been brought into effect and is already proving its worth in lessening the risks of armed aggression.

The defence needs of Canada both as a separate nation and as a signatory of this treaty are being kept constantly under review. Good progress has been made in the co-ordination and unification of our armed forces and conditions of service are being improved. Special attention is being given to research and development intended to provide the forces with the most modern equipment suitable for present requirements.

A measure will be introduced to consolidate the legislation respecting the defence forces and the Department of National Defence.

It is the view of my ministers that the economic health and stability of the nations of the north Atlantic community must be the real foundation of their ability to resist and, therefore, to deter aggression.

Although the nations of western Europe have made substantial progress towards recovery from the ravages of war, they have not been able to restore completely their economic strength. Their shortage of dollars continues, and international trade remains in a state of unbalance. The government is seeking by all appropriate means to cooperate in measures to restore economic equilibrium. The achievement of a pattern of world trade in which the trading nations can operate together within one single multilateral system continues to be the ultimate aim of my government.

Since parliament last met the international wheat agreement has come into operation. The agreement together with the other arrangements made to dispose of our surplus agricultural products will provide additional economic security for many of our farmers.

At home we continue to enjoy prosperity. Agricultural production generally continues to be high. Private capital investment and employment have remained at high levels. Relations between employers and employees have, with few exceptions, been satisfactory.

As a result of legislation passed at the last session of parliament, new agreements with respect to old age pensions have been completed with nine of the provinces, and increased pensions have now been made available to the aged and the blind in those provinces. The completion of a similar agreement with the province of Newfoundland awaits the enactment of the required provincial legislation.

The continued co-operation of the provinces in the implementation of the national health pro-