

PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE: On the eve of his departure to attend the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London, the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, made a statement in the House of Commons touching on some of the matters to be discussed.

He said:

"Hon. Members will know that I am proposing to leave tomorrow for London to attend the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. As I have said previously in the House, this meeting will give an opportunity for an exchange of views on some very important questions, and it underlines the value of the Commonwealth association as a medium for such exchanges. In turn these exchanges will make possible, I hope, more effective policies and actions for the attainment in our respective countries of the objectives of peace and greater human welfare which are basic for all the peoples of the Commonwealth.

"At this particular meeting questions of foreign affairs, and more particularly those concerned with Far Eastern matters, will occupy a great deal of attention. Recent developments in the Far East have underlined the seriousness of these issues. Because of that, and after certain messages to and from London, I have decided to ask my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) to accompany me to this Conference. Of course it will be possible for him to return to Ottawa before the end of the Conference if the situation here should appear to make that desirable.

ADVISERS

"As is customary I will also be attended at these meetings by the High Commissioner for Canada in London. The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Leger, will be one of our advisers. I had hoped to include Mr. R. B. Bryce, the Secretary to the Cabinet, in that capacity, but because of his regrettable illness his place will be taken by Mr. Ross Martin, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet.

"On economic matters we will be in close touch with our top economic advisers who are now attending the GATT meetings in Geneva, and it will not be difficult to have at least one of them join us in London when we reach the stage in the London meetings where we are dealing with that aspect of the agenda.

"In answer to a question from the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Mr. W. Earl Rowe, as to whether he expected trade matters to be discussed and suggesting that he might include the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, in his party, Mr. St. Laurent replied:

"I should like to include all my colleagues in the House, but it so happens that that is not possible. In view of recent developments I would expect that much of our time will be

taken up with a discussion of the international situation which we all look upon as being quite grave at this time. All of us appreciate the opportunity of taking counsel together as to what might best serve the interests of peace in the world.

"The Conference was not intended originally to operate as a continuation of the economic conference of two or three years ago, but I expect that that aspect of the world situation will also be under review. After the agenda has been settled at the first meeting we will know what time will be available for the consideration of that aspect of our affairs."

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1955 STRATFORD FESTIVAL: Two Shakespearean plays, "Julius Caesar" and "The Merchant of Venice", are the choice of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival at Stratford, Ontario, for next summer's programme. In addition, the Festival plans a limited number of repeat performances of last season's "Oedipus Rex". The Stratford Music Festival will be introduced, to run in conjunction with the theatrical presentations.

A star actor from abroad, Frederick Valk, will play Shylock, with Frances Hyland as Portia. Lorne Greene, noted Canadian radio, television and theatre personality, will play the role of Brutus.

The music Festival will be under the direction of Louis Applebaum, a Canadian composer well known for his music for Hollywood film productions.

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DR. HERZBERG HONOURED: Dr. Gerhard Herzberg, Director of the Division of Physics of the National Research Council of Canada, has been elected an Honourary Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences "in recognition of his scientific eminence and of his outstanding contributions to knowledge".

Since the time it was founded in 1934, the Indian Academy of Sciences has bestowed this signal honour upon only about 40 leading savants from all over the world. Dr. Herzberg is the first Canadian to receive this honour.

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MAJ.-GEN. ROCKINGHAM TO EUROPE: The Commander of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Maj.-Gen. J. M. Rockingham, left Canada for Europe on January 27 on a tour of Canadian and British units in Germany and the United Kingdom. He will also visit United Kingdom formations, both in Germany and in Britain.

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The value of Canada's 1954 mineral production is estimated at an all-time high of \$1,454,000,000 or \$95.69 per capita, a jump of \$118,000,000 or nearly 9% over the 1953 value which worked out at \$90.39 per Canadian.