



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SUGGESTION:** In an address to the Ottawa Canadian Club on December 18 His Excellency the Governor General, Right Hon. Vincent Massey, suggested that a Canadian festival of music and arts be presented in the Capital of Canada.

He said, in part:

"I, along with many other Canadians, have been increasingly impressed by the annual International Festival of Music and Arts held in Edinburgh. This undertaking, as you know, has been offered for the pleasure and profit of the people of that City and of their summer visitors. It has, I understand, been a success in every way.

"Edinburgh and Ottawa have certain characteristics in common. They are both northern capitals; they both have great natural beauty, and both stand rather apart from the main currents of trade and commerce. There are, of course, many differences. We cannot match Edinburgh's age or tradition; again Edinburgh is the centre of a small, compact country and we are the capital of half a continent, with all the geographical problems which that involves.

"It would naturally be foolish to attempt a close imitation of any other celebration; we must always do things in our own way, but it has occurred to me that it might be suitable for this community, with its great amenities, and with its contacts, national and international, at least to consider presenting to its visitors, if only on one experimental occasion, a festival of the arts resembling the annual event which means so much to Edin-

burgh and the great crowds of visitors who attend it.

"Such an occasion, I would suggest, should be international, but with a special emphasis on Canadian cultural achievement, which is not as well known as it ought to be -- to ourselves or to those from abroad. It could do much to stimulate and encourage that active participation in music and drama and the other arts which are becoming increasingly characteristic of life in this City and in Canada as a whole. It would suggest to visitors from abroad that Canada is not just a dollar country. Such projects are in keeping with the times.

"The festival movement has become a universal instrument of Twentieth Century culture. It serves to promote those activities which know no barrier of language or of history or of politics; activities which demonstrate that distinction between mere escapism and distraction on the one hand, and genuine recreation on the other -- activities greatly needed in this difficult age...."

\* \* \* \*

**NATIONAL LIBRARIAN:** The Prime Minister, Mr. Louis S. St. Laurent, announced on December 22 the appointment of a National Librarian, an Assistant National Librarian and a 14-member Advisory Council. Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, is to become National Librarian on January 1. His assistant will be Dr. Raymond Tanghe, librarian of the University of Montreal.