

partnership of our two founding peoples and the enriching diversity of our national pattern remain our greatest source of strength and progress....

We cannot, by our wish or our command, restore to our problems the simple shapes, the neat, black and white alternatives, of simpler times. To solve them, we must recapture the faith of our predecessors and restore their purpose in our national life. We must reaffirm those principles on which they agreed, and which are still valid, but be willing to modify procedures unsuited to our own times.

First among our national goals, prerequisite to all others, economic, social or cultural, is national unity. This does not mean, and cannot mean, uniformity. It *does* mean Canadian identity, with the symbols and, even more, the spirit and the pride, to foster such identity.

It does not mean subordination in any way of provincial rights, or the alienation of provincial authority. It does mean a government at the centre strong enough to serve Canada as a whole.

Let us here agree, and let our accord be broadcast for all men to know, that this nation, conceived in the hearts and minds of those who met in this place a century ago, nurtured through 26 Parliaments and into its fifth generation to embrace half a continent and ten provinces - that, today, this nation has no intention of falling apart and every intention of moving forward to greater things.

Let us agree that, whatever may be the difficulties facing our federal on, whatever our differences, we are resolved to keep our union strong, our federation healthy and our nation one before the world - that we accept our responsibility to the past but, even more important, we shall discharge our obligations to the future.

Gathered here in Confederation Chamber on this, the first day of September 1964, let us declare our vow to do our part to lift our country beyond the jeopardy of forces or factions which would divide it, to strengthen and safeguard its federal system, and to regard our highest purpose to be our trusteeship over the concept of a Canada fortunate in the duality of its origin and the diversity of its development but a Canada greater than the sum of its parts....

FOREST-FIRE FIGURES

Fire destruction in Canada's forests to the end of July greatly exceeded the losses recorded for the corresponding period last year, according to statistics released by the federal Department of Forestry.

Forest areas burned were estimated at 1,586,000 acres at the end of July as a result of 5,526 fires. At the same date last year, 368,000 acres of forest land had been damaged in 5,197 fires.

The Department issued the following figures for the current season:

June - estimated areas burned, 266,000 acres in 1,295 fires, including 32,000 acres in 49 fires in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

July - 1,182,000 acres in 1,792 fires. Of these fires, 90 occurred in the Yukon and Northwest Territories on a total area of 344,000 acres.

STEEL RAILS TO MEXICO

A \$3-million export sale of Canadian steel rails to Mexico has been announced by Mr. Charles M. Drury, the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, the Minister of Labour. This sale, which is being financed by the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, brings the total ECIC-financed sales of steel rails and track accessories to Mexico since 1960 to \$57 million.

By the agreement recently signed, ECIC will provide financing under Section 21A of the Export Credits Insurance Act to cover the sale, which embraces 22,000 tons of steel rails and track accessories by the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation, Limited (DOSCO), of Sydney, Nova Scotia. The buyer is Ferrocarril del Pacifico, Guadalajara, a Mexican Government railway.

MINISTERIAL COMMENT

Mr. Drury expressed his gratification with this demonstration of a continuing market for Canadian exports of heavy-capital equipment to Mexico. Mr. MacEachen said that his department welcomed the order, which would have favourable repercussions on the economy of the Maritimes, where DOSCO is a large employer. He said the order would result in the equivalent of jobs for 200 men for a year in the Maritimes alone.

It is estimated that the sale will provide 400,000 man-hours of work in DOSCO's Sydney plant in the Wabana ore mines, and in Cape Breton coal mines. Sub-suppliers in other parts of Canada will also benefit from the sale.

The conclusion of this contract brings the total amount of the contracts signed under ECIC's long term financing programme to \$194 million.

WATER RESOURCES MEETING

A meeting of senior officials and scientists from provinces, universities, the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers and federal departments concerned with water resources was held in Ottawa August 31 - September 1 to explore and plan Canada's participation in a world-wide study of man's most valuable resource.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Arthur Laing, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, who stressed the importance of this study of water problems.

Delegates were members of the Canadian National Committee for the International Hydrologic Decade, 1965-1975, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The gathering considered a number of matters involving Canadian participation in the international scientific study. Discussion centered on various types of project to be undertaken by the participating agencies from the federal and provincial governments and universities, as well as the establishment of an organization to co-ordinate activities in the national and international programmes.