



## DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Vol. 5, No. 8. Wednesday, January 13, 1954.

**House of Commons Reassembles:** Ottawa, Jan. 12 (CP) -- Commoners had a hatful of questions ready to ask the Government today after they returned from their 26-day Christmas and New Year's recess.

First question broached by the Opposition during the usual question-and-answer period soon after opening of the House concerned the announcement that two companies have merged to build a 2,240-mile, \$300,000,000 natural gas pipe line from Alberta to Eastern Canada.

Cabinet Ministers were all in their places to handle any questions and Mr. Howe outlined briefly the moves leading to merger of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines and Western Pipe Lines for construction of the longest pipe in the world. There was a series of questions all relating to the line immediately after.

Mr. Howe said the east-west gas pipe line will not affect British Columbia chances of obtaining natural gas from the Peace River area.

Mr. Howe said the Ontario and Quebec Hydro-Electric Power Commissions and the Shawinigan Water and Power Company are considering acting as distributors for the gas in their territories, but no decision has been reached at the moment.

Opposition Members also swung into other fields.

**Favours Provincial Lotteries:** Ottawa, Jan. 12 (CP) -- A French-language Progressive Conservative said tonight laws will never stop people from gambling.

Mr. J.W. Dufresne, Member for Quebec West, said in the House of Commons that he favours provincial lotteries. Millions of dollars went to foreign countries, money which could be kept in Canada to help hospitals, the needy and education.

He spoke on a resolution establishing a Commons-Senate committee to study the Criminal Code concerning capital punishment, lotteries and whipping.

**Auditor-General's Report:** Ottawa, Jan. 12 (CP) -- Canadian contributions to the Colombo Plan, Army Pay Corps accounts and service uniforms have come under the critical eye of the Auditor-General.

A two-inch thick blue-covered report of Mr. Watson Sellar for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1953, was tabled today in the House of Commons. The Auditor-General usually has some caustic comments to make concerning Government accounts, but the report for the most part contained few criticisms.

Referring to the Colombo Plan, Mr. Sellar said that to July 31, four months after the close of the fiscal year, no report had been received that India had covered \$10,000,000 worth of wheat shipped from Canada in 1952....

**Freight Rate Equalization:** Ottawa, Jan. 12 (CP) -- Western Provinces and other bodies today split widely over a freight rate scale to equalize rates among different parts of Canada.

The divergent views were offered as the Board of Transport Commissioners began hearing final argument in its long inquiry on equalization directed by a 1951 parliamentary statute. The Board is seeking a new scale of basic "class" rates to go into effect Jan. 1, 1955.

Five proposed new rate schedules are before the Board, and today it heard arguments favouring three of them from the Governments of