

MINISTER ELECTED: Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, was elected member of Parliament for Hastings-Frontenac in a by-election held in the Ontario constituency November 4. He was opposed by Mr. Ross Dawson, of Toronto, who ran as a Labour candidate.

Mr. Smith's election raised to 112 the number of Progressive Conservatives in the 265-seat House of Commons.

NEW ROYAL VISIT: Buckingham Palace has confirmed a report that H.R.H. Princess Margaret will visit Canada during 1958, primarily to attend British Columbia's centenary celebrations. It is expected that the Princess will also visit Ottawa and other cities.

There has as yet been no announcement as to dates.

NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET: A 14-member delegation is representing the Canadian Parliament at the Third Annual North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentarians' Conference in Paris from November 11 to November 16, inclusive.

The delegation is composed of: John C. Pallett, M.P. (Chairman), Honourable Senator Léon Methot, and Messrs. H.F. Jones, R.H. McGregor, G.W. Montgomery, Roland English and R.P. Vivian, Members of Parliament, representing the Progressive Conservative Party; Honourable Senator A.L. Beaubien, and Messrs. Charles A. Cannon, Auguste Maltais, N.C. Schneider, and George E. Nixon, Members of Parliament representing the Liberal Party; Mr. Ray Thomas, M.P., representing the Social Credit Party, and Mr. Erhart Regier, M.P., representing the C.C.F. Party.

Mr. Alcide Paquette, Office of the Prime Minister, is Secretary of the Delegation.

NEW RAILWAY LINE: A 161-mile branch line of the Canadian National Railways providing railway transportation facilities to the Chibougamau region of Quebec was opened officially on November 6 by Mr. George Hees, Minister of Transport.

In an address at the opening ceremony, the Minister said, in part:

"Today's ceremony draws attention to two vital factors in our national economy. First, that much of our natural resources still await transportation before they can be developed, and secondly, that our railways remain ever to the forefront in opening up new districts where the economic possibilities of development can be demonstrated.

"It is evident to me that the partnership of transportation and development will play just as important a role in the next hundred years

as it has in the last, and further, that railways still remain the backbone of transportation in Canada. While aircraft and even trucks may lead in the search for new natural resources to be developed, the mass transportation of natural resources can be most economically carried by rail or by water.

"Today we find the railways extending out to the areas where natural resources await to be developed and where bulk traffic requires mass transportation. An instance of this natural expansion of our transportation facilities is before us here today where the 161-mile branch line of the Canadian National Railway between Beattyville and Chibougamau has been completed well within the scheduled date. The railway will be able to handle a volume of traffic which will permit great expansion of existing mines and bring into operation additional mines in adjoining areas.

"The skill of the modern railroad builder would astound some of his forefathers, on this new branch line which we open to traffic today, track-laying on the prepared roadbed was carried out at a sustained rate of around 4,000 feet a day. Bridge building on this line was likewise carried out in record time.

"The mining industry has contributed greatly to the development of Canada, and I am confident that the indicated mineral wealth of this area plus the transportation facilities being provided will result in new opportunities for our development as an industrial empire."

AT FAO CONFERENCE: The Canadian Delegation to the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations which opened in Rome on November 2 is headed by Mr. Douglas S. Harkness, Minister of Agriculture. Dr. J.F. Booth, Head of the Economics Division of the Department of Agriculture is the Alternate Delegate. Mr. Harkness and Dr. Booth are assisted by advisers from various government departments.

The Food and Agriculture Organization was created in 1945 to assist countries in raising their standard of living by increasing the production and improving the distribution of agricultural, forestry and fisheries products throughout the world.

The conference, which is attended by representatives of 74 member countries is considering, among other matters, the world food and agricultural situation; reports of FAO committees on commodity problems; proposals for raising the fertility of the Mediterranean region by reforestation and soil improvement; problems of raising productivity in agriculture, forestry and fisheries; measures for the improvement of marketing; nutrition and food policies, including education and home economics; and the establishment of a forest research centre in Venezuela for Latin America.