

NEW MINISTERS

Two new Ministers from the Province of Quebec have joined the Cabinet of the Progressive Conservative Government headed by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker.

They are Raymond O'Hurley, M.P. for Lotbinière, named Minister of Defence Production, and Henri Courtemanche, M.P. for Labelle, chosen to be Secretary of State.

Mrs. Ellen Fairclough, M.P. for Hamilton, Ont., the former Secretary of State, has assumed the portfolio of Citizenship and Immigration.

Senator John T. Haig of Manitoba, submitted his resignation as Government Leader in the Senate, and was replaced by Senator Walter M. Aseltine, of Rosetown, Sask.

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THRONE SPEECH SYNOPSIS

In the Speech from The Throne read by Governor General Vincent Massey at the opening of the 24th Parliament May 12, the following salient points were noted:

Further funds to be made available for direct mortgage lending for house building.

Government hopes further direct talks may yet resolve CPR firemen's strike, and is ready to take any action required in the national interest.

Federal payments to provincial hospital insurance plans to start July 1.

Roads programme planned in northern territories and provinces.

Government anti-inflation warning stresses "the need to restrain demands which will give rise to increases in prices and the costs of production."

New National Capital Act would replace present federal district commission legislation to promote long-term development of Ottawa area.

Period for payment of seasonal unemployment insurance benefits to be extended six weeks beyond May 15, with immediate parliamentary action sought.

Bill of Rights to be proposed on subjects within federal jurisdiction.

Substantial programme of public works planned, including large expansion of airport construction.

Construction of railway to Great Slave Lake in Northwest Territories to be proposed.

Measures planned to encourage development and processing of natural resources.

New agency to regulate broadcasting to be established.

New measure to enable start this year on construction of South Saskatchewan River dam project at Outlook, Sask.

Research programme to be started to help open up mineral resources of Arctic Islands.

National parole board to be established to replace present parole system.

New small business agency in government to provide small business liaison with government and advise on aid measures.

New harbour commission planned at Lakehead to combine Fort William and Port Arthur harbours.

Amendments to be proposed in present plan of cash advances on farm-stored prairie grain.

New agricultural credit measures to be proposed.

System of simultaneous translation of English and French speeches in the Commons to be installed.

Permanent committees on veterans affairs and estimates to be established.

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FAR NORTH STUDIES

The first thorough biological investigation of Prince of Wales Island in the centre of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago will be made this summer by an expedition from the Natural History Branch of the National Museum of Canada.

Purpose of the expedition is a comprehensive scientific survey of the bird and animal life of the island. Prince of Wales Islands has no permanent Eskimo population, although Eskimo hunters frequently visit it. No settlement or trading post has ever been established on the island so the scientists will be able to study bird and animal life that has not been disturbed by man.

Leading the party is T.H. Manning, of Ottawa, well-known Arctic explorer and naturalist. Accompanying Mr. Manning are Andrew Macpherson, mammalogist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and Mrs. Macpherson, who will study Arctic parasites on the island under a grant from the Arctic Institute of North America.

The expedition left Ottawa May 10 by air for Resolute on Cornwallis Island. From Resolute, the group will make a 150-mile trip by dog-sled across the ice to their base camp at Browne Bay on the east coast of the island. Eskimos will be engaged to help transport the expedition and its supplies and equipment to Prince of Wales Island. From Browne Bay the scientists will make various trips varying in duration from three hours to 10 days and in early August will make a complete crossing of the island. In early September they will be brought from the island by a light aircraft.

Prince of Wales Island, which has an area of 12,500 square miles, has received little scientific study and has been visited only four times since Captain J.E. Bernier took possession of the island for Canada in 1906. It was discovered in 1851 by British naval parties searching for the lost Franklin expedition. The North Magnetic Pole was once located in the north-west part of Prince of Wales Island but now lies to the north-west of the island.