



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 13 No. 39

September 24, 1958

## CONTENTS

Commonwealth Conference .....	1
Canadian Savings Bonds .....	2
Name Schools For V.C. Winners .....	2
Record Farm Income .....	3
Diplomatic Changes .....	3
Canada's Postwar Expansion .....	4

Assistance To Refugees .....	5
Imports Price Drop .....	5
Electric Energy .....	6
Presentation Of Credentials .....	6
Committee On Defence Science .....	6

## COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

The establishment of a Commonwealth financial institution and a food bank was suggested by Prime Minister Diefenbaker in an address to the Commonwealth Trade Conference in Montreal, September 18.

Mr. Diefenbaker, said in part:

"I am attracted by the idea of a Commonwealth financial institution as a channel to provide funds, particularly to those countries that are newly emerging or have just emerged from colonial status to nationhood within the Commonwealth.

"There are difficulties, but I commend to the Conference the objective of devising suitable Commonwealth arrangements to provide economic encouragement, more especially to nations as full status in self-government is attained.

"In most, if not all countries, it has been deemed imperative to afford special support to safe-guarding measures for agriculture. We delude ourselves if we regard this as a passing phase -- it is clearly here to stay. The actions which Governments are impelled to take may harm the interest of farmers in other lands. As surpluses arise they are shipped abroad where interference may result in the normal trade of other nations.

"Canada has suffered for many years from the consequences of efforts by other countries to foster their agriculture. We have had to take action, and the effects thereof have been felt by other nations. While trying to mini-

mize these detrimental effects, it is agreed that they cannot be eliminated entirely.

"What can be done?"

"To buy up surpluses from other countries entering our markets and seek to sell them elsewhere would not correct the general situation. The difficulty of solution is so widespread that no one nation can hope to overcome it by unilateral action, or in groups as relatively small as that comprised in the Commonwealth. It might, therefore, be desirable for all the nations that are substantial producers or importers of food to undertake in co-operation a systematic review of the conditions of world trade in agricultural products and the rules under which such trade can be carried out with harmony and good sense. The Government of Canada would be prepared to join in such an effort, for which the machinery set up under the General Agreement On Tariffs And Trade provides a convenient forum for a realistic discussion.

"Out of such a review would come useful ideas to be applied in the setting up of a food bank. We must expect surpluses of food to persist and unless and until means can be devised to remove them from commercial trade and use them to meet the needs of those who cannot produce or afford to buy the food their peoples need for proper sustenance.

"I would like to see a transfer of surpluses undertaken co-operatively by the major producing countries on a reasonably systematic