

cause of the importance of that objective, the United States and Canadian Ministers warmly welcomed the evidence of a desire in many countries to take decisive steps toward the restoration of a broad area of convertibility, and expressed a willingness to do their part to help in making such a movement successful.

"The discussions at this meeting of the Joint Committee were marked by the friendliness and candour which are characteristic of relations between the two countries. At the invitation of the Canadian Ministers the second meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Ottawa."

The United States was represented by: Hon. John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State; Hon. George M. Humphrey, Secretary of the Treasury; Hon. Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture; Hon. Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce.

Canada was represented by: Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, M.P., Minister of Trade and Commerce and Defence Production; Rt. Hon. James Garfield Gardiner, M.P., Minister of Agriculture; Hon. Douglas Charles Abbott, M.P., Minister of Finance, and Hon. L.B. Pearson, M.P., Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In addition to the members of the Joint Committee, Governor Adams, the Assistant to the President, the Honourable Douglas Stuart, United States Ambassador to Canada, and Dr. Gabriel Hague, Economic Assistant to the President, participated in the discussions.

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TRAVEL DEFICIT: Visitors to Canada and Canadian travellers abroad both spent record amounts last year but for the third year in a row Canadian travellers spent more in other countries than foreign travellers spent in Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported on March 15.

The Bureau's first estimates of international travel expenditures in 1953 show that Canadian travellers spent \$365,000,000 - the equivalent of \$1,000,000 a day - in other countries, \$24,000,000 or 7% more than in 1952, while visitors to Canada spent \$302,000,000, up \$27,000,000 or 10% over 1952 and 6% more than the previous peak of \$285,000,000 in 1949. The resulting debit balance on travel account with all countries was \$63,000,000 and compared with debits of \$66,000,000 in 1952 and \$6,000,000 in 1951, and credit balances of \$49,000,000 in 1950, \$92,000,000 in 1949 and the peak of \$145,000,000 in 1948.

For the second straight year Canadian travellers last year spent more in the United States than American visitors spent in Canada, but the debit balance on travel account with the United States was reduced 32% to \$25,000,000 from \$37,000,000 in 1952. It compared with credit balances of \$12,000,000 in 1951, \$67,000,000 in 1950, \$102,000,000 in 1949 and the peak of \$154,000,000 in 1948.

During 1953 Canadian travellers spent a record \$307,000,000 south of the border, \$13,000,000 or 4% more than in 1952, while American visitors spent an all-time peak of \$282,000,000 in Canada, \$25,000,000 or 10% more than in the preceding year.

Canada's traditional debit balance on travel account with overseas countries last year climbed 31% to an all-time high of \$38,000,000 from \$29,000,000 as expenditures by Canadian travellers jumped by \$11,000,000 or 23% to a record \$58,000,000, while expenditures in Canada by visitors from overseas countries increased by \$2,000,000 or 11% to \$20,000,000.

Visitors from the United States arriving in Canada by all means of transportation except rail spent more money last year than in 1952. Expenditures by those travelling by auto rose to \$159,000,000 from \$143,000,000; by bus to \$23,000,000 from \$18,000,000, by boat to \$16,000,000 from \$14,000,000, and by plane to \$25,000,000 from \$22,000,000. Expenditures by Americans arriving by rail declined to \$44,000,000 from \$46,000,000. Those entering the country by other means spent \$15,000,000 as against \$14,000,000.

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RECORD BORDER TRAFFIC: The volume of highway traffic crossing the border into Canada from the United States reached a new peak in 1953, with a total of 13,786,500 vehicles passing through the 148 ports of entry, according to the Bureau's year-end summary in its monthly report of border travel covering December. This total is 1,167,000 or 9% over the previous record in 1952, and was made up of 8,607,800 vehicles of foreign registry entering Canada and 5,178,500 of Canadian registry returning from the United States. Both foreign and Canadian vehicles contributed to the percentage gain in the same proportion.

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MORE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: Ordinary and supplementary benefit claimants on the live unemployment register totalled 494,831 on January 31, an increase of 103,798 or 26.5% over a month earlier and 140,171 or 39.5% more than on the same date last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported March 12.

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APRIL 6 BUDGET DAY: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced in the House of Commons on March 18 that he will present the new federal budget on Tuesday, April 6 at 8 p.m., EST.

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Under the federal plan to assist the provinces in developing their civil defence services, federal funds exceeding \$4,000 have been made available for Nova Scotia for the current fiscal year, it has been announced.