

There has been a pronounced increase in the volume of farm products exported. It is the intention of the Government to continue a vigorous promotion of the sale of agricultural products at home and abroad.

The Government's efforts to expand Canada's trade have been unremitting. Since the last session of Parliament Ministers of the Crown have visited Great Britain and other countries, to participate personally in the negotiation of trade agreements. At the present time, the Minister of Trade and Commerce is on the way to Australia and New Zealand to discuss the revision of existing agreements.

You will be pleased to learn that an agreement in principle has been reached between His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom and Canada with respect to a new trade agreement. The agreement itself will be submitted for your approval during the present session.

With the assistance and co-operation of the National Employment Commission, progress has been made in coping with unemployment and relief. Relief camps were closed on July 1. A registration of unemployed persons on relief has been completed. Dominion-provincial agreements have been entered into respecting a Farm Employment Plan, under the terms of which work has been provided for thousands of single homeless men. A Home Improvement Plan has been put into operation. Despite these measures, however, and the substantial increase of employment, the provision for large numbers still on relief remains a foremost problem.

Measures will be taken, in co-operation with the provinces, to assist in the establishment of unemployed young people.

A comprehensive program to meet the serious conditions created by widespread and intense drought in Western Canada was adopted during the summer months.

The amalgamation and consolidation of certain branches of the public service, for which provision was made at the last session, have been effected. The board of governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the board of directors of the Canadian National Railways have been appointed and have entered upon their duties. Through the purchase of stock and the appointment of directors, authorized by Parliament, the Government has assumed a predominant interest in the ownership, and an effective control of the Bank of Canada.

Measures will be introduced to provide for the establishment of a trans-Canada air service; to extend the authority of the Board of Railway Commissioners, and to revise the capital structure of the Canadian National Railways. Among other proposed legislative enactments to which your attention will be invited, will be bills to facilitate the making of loans for the repair and improvement of rural and urban homes; to amend and consolidate the Acts which relate to combines in trade and industry, and to provide for pensions to the blind at a lower age than seventy years. A measure will also be submitted with respect to the discharge, in any coin or currency which is legal tender, of debt payment at present required to be made in gold or gold coin.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts of the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

The Hon. the SPEAKER.

Honourable members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In again inviting your careful consideration of the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

## ABDICATION OF KING EDWARD VIII

### MESSAGE FROM HIS FORMER MAJESTY

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable members of the Senate, the Prime Minister has received from His Excellency the Governor General a message from His former Majesty, King Edward VIII, dated the 10th of December, 1936, and the instrument of abdication of Edward VIII, of the same date.

The message communicates His former Majesty's final and irrevocable decision to renounce the Throne to which he succeeded on the death of his father, and sets forth the instrument of abdication executed by King Edward VIII on that day.

Originals of the instrument of abdication and of the message, each signed in His former Majesty's own hand, were forwarded by command of King Edward VIII, by letter, from Buckingham Palace, December 10, 1936, to His Excellency the Governor General.

The text of the instrument of abdication and of His former Majesty's message was communicated by cable to His Excellency the Governor General on the morning of December 10, 1936, and immediately communicated by His Excellency to his Ministers.

The originals of the message and of the instrument of abdication are at present in the personal possession of the Prime Minister. It is the Prime Minister's intention, unless honourable members of either the Senate or the Commons should otherwise direct, to have them deposited, for safe custody, in the Office of the Privy Council.

I place in your hands, Mr. Speaker, to be read to honourable members, and to be retained among the records of this House, a photostatic copy of each of these documents. I would ask your Honour to read these documents.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable senators, I have a message from His former Majesty, King Edward VIII, dated the 10th of December, 1936, which reads as follows: