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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

GENERAL ELECTION ANNOUNCED: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, announced in the House of Commons at the adjournment hour on Monday, April 25, that it is the intention of the Government at the end of this week to recommend to His Excellency that he dissolve the present Parliament.

Asked if he would not advise the House of the date upon which voting is to take place, the Prime Minister replied:

"It would be quite improper for me to announce the date of the election until His Excellency has accepted the advice we shall tender at the end of the week to dissolve Parliament. I said I thought that the election should be held as early as possible. If hon. members will refer to the Elections Act they will see that with dissolution coming at the end of the week it would leave it possible to have an election on June 27."

In the early portion of his statement the Prime Minister spoke in part as follows:

"...All hon. members know there must be a general election within the next year, and there are a good many reasons why one should be held earlier than that. In the first place there has been a change in the leadership of the Government since the general election of 1945; and it has always been my view that I should attempt to get from the people, at as early a date as possible, confirmation of what has been done.

"When I became Prime Minister in November of last year certain developments were in process which could not be interrupted without serious prejudice to the interests of our own country, and perhaps to wider interests still. I refer to the negotiations then in progress with the delegation from Newfoundland, and to the discussions being carried on at that time in Washington respecting the North Atlantic Security Pact. Once the agreement with Newfoundland was signed on December 11, it provided that the union should be concluded on March 31, and it was essential to hold a session of Parliament in order to approve the agreement. In the opinion of the Government it was also essential to deal with certain emergency legislation which otherwise would have expired within two months after the opening of the session or on March 31 last, whichever date was the earlier. It was also felt that the people of Canada would expect to have the budget presented at an early date; and it was the desire of the Government, before authorizing the signature of Canada to the North Atlantic Treaty, to secure the approval of Parliament to the principles underlying that Treaty.

"All these essential steps have been taken. The union with Newfoundland has been completed. The North Atlantic Treaty has been signed. The budget has been presented, and the estimates for the current fiscal year have been before

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY DEGREES: The National Employment Committee, which acts in an advisory capacity to the Unemployment Insurance Commission of the National Employment Service, on April 22 recommended that the National Council of Canadian Universities take under consideration at their May Conference the special employment problem of immigrants from Displaced Persons Camps who hold degrees from European universities and who have completed their period in selected employment in Canada.

A resolution to this effect was passed at the first of a two-day meeting of the Employment Committee which opened in Montreal under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice W.J. Lindal, of Winnipeg. Mr. E.N. Mitchell, of the Unemployment Insurance Committee is acting as secretary.

Judge Lindal quoted several instances in the Winnipeg region alone where there were graduates of European universities, including architects, doctors, chemists, mineralogists, dentists, who had come to Canada for work in basic industries and who had now completed their period in selected employment.

Judge Lindal said that "the responsibility lies upon the State to place these people" (in employment for which they are most suited).

The Committee agreed that there should be a uniform method in Canada of assessing the value of training in the various European schools of learning.

COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION: The Royal Commission on Transportation has announced that its opening sittings will commence in Ottawa on May 2, 1949.

The opening sittings are expected to take two or three days and will be followed by regional hearings in the Provinces.

The sittings in Ottawa, to commence on May 2, will be for the purpose of formally opening the inquiry into national transportation. Details as to scope of inquiry, itinerary and procedure to be followed during the public hearings will be announced at the opening sittings.

Submissions and representations by provincial governments, railways and other interested organizations will be made at regional hearings in the Provinces and at other hearings to take place in Ottawa at a later date.

NEWFOUNDLAND FAMILY ALLOWANCES: Approximately 45,000 family allowance cheques have been mailed to families in Canada's newest province last week the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, has announced.

The allowances total more than \$700,000 per month and, when all applications have been dealt with, it is expected that allowances will be paid on behalf of children in more than 48,000 families.

FARMERS' INCOMES: Net income of Canadian farmers from farming operations in 1948 reached a total of \$1,693,315,000, the highest figure recorded since the publication of comparable statistics back to 1938, according to preliminary estimates by the Bureau of Statistics. Last year's net income compares with the revised estimates of \$1,234,909,000 for 1947, the previous high total, and of \$1,161,395,000 for 1946.

Farm cash income from the sale of farm products also established an all-time high record of \$2,449,865,000 last year as against \$1,962,276,000 in the preceding year, and there were further increases in the value of home-consumed farm produce. The decrease in the value of the year-end change of farm-held livestock inventories more than offset some increase in the value of year-end changes of farm-held grain inventories, but it was insufficient to offset the gains in cash income and income in kind, the result being that gross income for 1948 also set a record.

Farm operating expenses during 1948 continued their upward climb. From \$968,372,000 in 1947, they increased to \$1,083,556,000 last year, a gain of nearly 12 per cent. While gains were registered for nearly all of the expense items, the most significant increase occurred in livestock feeds, which rose by approximately \$45,000,000 or about 19 per cent.

With the exception of British Columbia, all of the 1948 provincial net incomes were larger than in 1947, while compared with 1946, net incomes were lower in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Greatest absolute gain in net income last year as compared with 1947 occurred in Saskatchewan.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES: The increase in total value of inventories during the last two years is still continuing, according to preliminary index figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. The February index for all industries stood at 133.0 per cent of the average 1947 value as against 131.2 at the end of January.

Of the main industry groupings, inventory values in the consumers' goods industries continued their consistent increase, and are now at the highest point since January, 1947. Inventories of construction goods' industries, which dropped sharply last fall, appear also to have reached their highest value since January, 1947. Capital goods industries, which showed alternate rises and falls during 1948, have increased inventory values for the third consecutive month, but are below last year's high point. Inventories in the producers' materials industries, which had risen steadily since last April, showed a 4.6 point fall in February.

WHEAT STOCKS UP 27 P.C.: Total stocks of Canadian wheat at the end of March were 262,400,000 bushels, an increase of 55,400,000 or nearly 27 per cent over the level at March 31, 1948. All stocks were held in Canadian positions. Last year on the same date 2,400,000 bushels out of the total stocks of 207,000,000 bushels were held in the United States.

Over 70 per cent of Canada's total wheat stocks at March 31 were held on farms and in country, interior private and mill elevators -- 129,300,000 bushels or some 49 per cent of total stocks being accounted for by farm-held wheat, while 57,500,000 or about 22 per cent were located in the latter positions. A year ago there were an estimated 116,000,000 bushels on farms and 42,700,000 in country, interior private and mill elevators. Lakehead stocks at 39,600,000 bushels on March 31 this year were sharply above last year's level of 16,900,000 bushels. Stocks in transit by rail and in store in Eastern elevators were also well above the March, 1948 level but west coast terminal stocks at 5,000,000 bushels were 2,000,000 below the 1948 figure.

The total quantity of oats in Canada at the end of March is estimated at 167,839,000 bushels as compared with 135,504,000 on the same date last year, this year's total comprising 9,407,000 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 1,776,000 in transit by rail, and 156,656,000 bushels on farms.

Barley stocks amounted to 78,831,000 bushels as compared with 73,102,000 at the same date last year, the figures for 1949 including 14,112,000 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 1,658,000 bushels in transit by rail and 63,061,000 bushels on farms.

Stocks of rye are estimated at 15,530,000 bushels as against 2,217,000, this year's total including 7,305,000 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 493,000 bushels in transit by rail and 7,732,000 bushels on farms.

Flaxseed stocks amounted to 14,334,000 bushels as compared with 8,536,000 at the end of March 1948, the total in 1949 being made up of 10,497,000 bushels in elevators, 402,000 bushels in transit by rail and 3,434,000 bushels on farms.

VEHICLE ENTRIES: Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits in March totalled 46,200, an advance of less than one per cent over the same month last year. During the first three months of this year, entries totalled 114,600, an increase of six per cent over the same period in 1948.

A falling-off in traffic entering through ports in Ontario almost balanced increases in other provinces. The Ontario decrease was influenced by unusually heavy traffic in March 1948, which was 59 per cent greater than in March, 1947.

NEWFOUNDLAND POPULATION: Since the turn of the century, the population of Newfoundland (including Labrador) has grown from 220,984 in 1901 to 321,819 in 1945, an increase of 100,835 or over 45 per cent. From 1935 to 1945 it increased by 32,000 or 11 per cent. The 1945 total was approximately three and one-half times that of Prince Edward Island, about one-half that of Nova Scotia, and about one-tenth that of Quebec.

These and other facts are revealed in two reports, released by the Bureau of Statistics, which form part of a series based on the results of a Census of Population, Agriculture and Fisheries, taken by the Newfoundland Government in 1945. These results were compiled in the Bureau of Statistics at the request of Newfoundland.

In the 10-year period since the taking of the 1935 Census in the districts of Newfoundland showing the largest increases in population were Grand Falls, Humber and St. George's - Port-au-Port, each of which increased by more than one-third.

Eight centres in 1945 had a population of over 2,500. The population within the incorporated limits of St. John's City numbered 44,603, as compared with 39,886 in 1935. However, if several adjoining settlements and sections are included, the population of the Greater St. John's Area numbered 57,496 in 1945. The populations of the remaining centres of over 2,500 in 1945, with 1935 figures in brackets, were, as follows: Bell Island, 8,171 (6,157); Bishop's Falls, 2,522 (1,882); Botwood, 2,744 (1,090); Carbonear, 3,472 (3,367); Corner Brook, 8,711 (6,374); Grand Falls, 4,552 (4,244); and Windsor, 2,772 (1,447).

PHOTO SURVEY OPERATIONS: The RCAF's aerial photo operations for 1949 get under way on April 25, with the take-off from Rockcliffe Airfield, near Ottawa, of the first survey aircraft of No. 22 Photo Wing.

Last year the Air Force smashed all records by photographing over 911,000 square miles of previously uncharted or poorly charted Canadian territory. But this year by setting themselves a goal of 947,000 square miles the aerial photo teams expect to exceed even that figure.

For the first time No. 408 Squadron, formed late last year, will take its place in the field alongside the veteran 413 and 414 squadrons. Officer Commanding 408 is a veteran photo-flier, W/C C.L. Olsson, DFC.

Two of the new squadron's eight Lancasters will operate this summer on Shoran-controlled survey work with which the RCAF has been experimenting. In the past, ground surveyors from the Department of Mines and Resources have been flown into unsurveyed areas to establish accurate ground positions, necessary before aerial photos of the region can be

turned into detailed maps. Use of ground radar beacons together with airborne radar equipment enables aerial photographs to be positioned. A network of such radar beacon sites for geodetic control has been set up in Manitoba and Saskatchewan during 1948 by the RCAF Department of Mines and Resources. It is too early to determine to what extent this system of fixing the position of aerial photos will displace ground surveying, but it is hoped that 1949 operations may provide an answer. If the operations are successful, it is possible that great savings in time and money may be made in connection with mapping from aerial pictures.

RAIN REPELLENT INVENTION: A rain repellent for aircraft windscreens has been invented by a member of the National Research Council of Canada and is now being manufactured and marketed by a Canadian firm, the Council has announced.

Optical errors caused by rain on the windshield of an airplane are usually greater than the pilot realizes. Simulated flight tests with a water spray on a sheet of glass in a high speed air current, showed that the extent of these errors varies considerably with the size of water drops, the amount of water, the air speed, and the angle of the windscreen. Tests further revealed that the average error is up to five degrees in angle in the line of vision, which means that a mountain peak half-a-mile ahead of an aircraft flying through heavy rain might appear to the pilot as much as 200 ft. lower than it actually is.

Application to the aircraft windscreen of the wax preparation, FC-10 Rain Repellent, is an effective method of preventing these optical errors. On impact upon the windscreens, the drops of water are broken down by the repellent into tiny droplets which then pass off into the airstream. The droplets move so rapidly that they are quite invisible. The windscreens thus appears dry and allows vision that is free from distortions or ripples.

Visibility of two miles has been obtained through the treated area under conditions in which untreated areas allowed no vision whatever. The treatment has proved satisfactory at all airspeeds, even in excess of 600 mph., and through heaviest rain. While it does not shed ice, the repellent permits normal de-icing, either with heat or with alcohol, and still functions properly on shedding subsequent rain. Materials used are non-corrosive and do not damage paint finishes.

This windscreens treatment is the result of seven years' research by Dr. D.F. Stedman of the Division of Chemistry.

AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA: The Department of External Affairs has announced that on April 26 Mr. Atilio Garcia Mellid presented to His Excellency the Governor General at Government House, his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Argentina in Canada.

Mr. Brooke Claxton, Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs was present. Mr. Erasto M. Villa, Counsellor of the Argentine Embassy and Commodore Arturo Francisco Grassi, Air Attaché, accompanied the Ambassador. Mr. Howard Measures, Chief of Protocol, Department of External Affairs, presented Mr. Garcia Mellid to His Excellency the Governor-General.

Mr. Garcia Mellid was born in Buenos Aires in 1901. A former professor, he is a writer. His activities in that field include work on several daily newspapers and magazines in his own country and abroad and the publication of several books of poetry, history and essays. He entered the Argentine Diplomatic Service in 1946 as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary and was later promoted to the rank of Ambassador. He was attached to the Political Division of the Department of External Affairs of Argentina and later became Director of the Cultural Division, a position which he held until he was appointed Ambassador to Canada.

RETAIL SALES: Spending in Canadian retail stores during February amounted to \$466,900,000, down five per cent from the January volume of \$493,370,000, but five per cent in advance of last year's February total of \$444,730,000, according to estimates by the Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, sales amounted to \$960,270,000 as compared with \$935,530,000 in the same period of 1948, an increase of 2.6 per cent.

All provinces shared in the rise during February over last year, with the exception of the Maritimes. Largest gains recorded were 21.6 per cent in Saskatchewan and 21.5 per cent in Alberta, followed by Manitoba 9.9 per cent, Ontario 4.4 per cent, British Columbia 1.6 per cent, and Quebec 1.2 per cent. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were down 2.5 per cent.

Sharpest gains among trades in the month were: lumber and building materials, 17.3 per cent; department stores, 9.4 per cent; and variety stores, seven per cent. Motor vehicle sales showed the greatest percentage decline, falling 9.4 per cent, men's clothing stores followed with 5.5 per cent, appliance and radio stores 3.8 per cent, shoe stores 3.4 per cent, and family clothing stores 3.2 per cent.

WHOLESALE SALES: Dollar volume of wholesale sales was one per cent higher in February than in the preceding month, and two per cent above the level of the corresponding month last year, according to the statements from representative wholesalers in nine lines of trade. The general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 244.6 for February, 243.2 for January and 239.8 for February last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Sales in Quebec and British Columbia continued below last year by six per cent and three per cent, respectively. Wholesalers in the Maritime Provinces reported an increase of two per cent, while gains of four per cent and 10 per cent were recorded for Ontario and the Prairie Provinces.

Dry goods and apparel sales continued below 1948 volume, although the February declines were less marked than those for January. Sales of footwear wholesalers decreased five per cent, dry goods nine per cent, and clothing wholesalers 16 per cent.

TRANSIT TRAFFIC RECORD: Setting a new record for combined urban and interurban traffic, the total number of passengers carried by electric cars, motor buses and trolley buses of transit companies during 1948 totalled nearly 1,614,000,000 as compared with 1,598,000,000 in 1947, an increase of 16,000,000 or one per cent, according to a summary of monthly transit reports issued by the Bureau of Statistics. The year's total exceeded the previous peak of 1946 by nearly 6,000,000 passengers.

Urban traffic aggregated 1,507,838,000 passengers during the year as against 1,499,536,000 in 1947, while interurban increased from 98,447,000 to nearly 106,147,000 passengers in 1948, a gain of 7.8 per cent. The steady use of transit facilities in 1948, observes the Bureau report, reflected the high level of industrial employment and national income. Traffic increased despite the advance in passenger automobile registrations and larger sales of motor cycles, bicycles and motor bikes.

RAIL REVENUES: Both revenues and expenses of Canadian railways increased in December over a year earlier, expenditures showing the greater increase and net operating revenue being consequently reduced, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Operating revenues reported by the railways for the month amounted to \$77,483,353, an increase of \$8,852,381 or nearly 13 per cent over December 1947, and of \$15,557,000 above December 1946, setting a new high for any December, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Operating expenses rose more sharply to \$72,522,817, up \$14,172,924 or 24 per cent above a year earlier. Net operating revenue was thus reduced from \$10,281,079 in 1947 to \$4,960,536 for the month. Owing to a considerable easing in tax accruals, however, operating income suffered only a minor decline from \$6,904,417 to \$6,836,085.

GOLD PRODUCTION: Gold production in Canada was maintained at a comparatively high level in February, output for the month, as recorded by the Bureau of Statistics, amounting to 307,472 fine ounces, showing a slight decline

from the January figure of 308,989, but 17 per cent in advance of the 261,603 produced in February last year.

Output for the two months ended February totalled 616,461 fine ounces as compared with 534,969 in 1948, an increase of 15 per cent. There were substantial advances over a year earlier in Quebec, Ontario and the Northwest Territories, and small decreases in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and British Columbia.

SILVER, LEAD, ZINC: Production of both primary silver and lead continued downward in February, silver reaching its lowest point since April, 1947, and lead its lowest since May, 1944. Primary zinc showed a substantial increase over last year.

The month's output of primary silver amounted to 936,372 fine ounces as compared with 975,434 in January and 1,035,568 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, 1,911,806 fine ounces were produced as against 1,993,793 in the similar period a year ago. Output for April, 1947, stood at 924,469 fine ounces.

MANGANESE SHORTAGE: Concerned over the shortage of manganese ore on the American Continent and the uncertainty of shipments from overseas sources of supply, steel producers in Canada are now considering the possibilities of using substitutes for manganese, vital alloying metal in the production of practically all types of steels. Acting on their suggestion, the Bureau of Mines of the Department of Mines and Resources, plans to undertake research immediately, in the hope of finding a suitable substitute. Estimates of the Bureau for the current fiscal year provide an amount for the installation of a 250-K.v.a. electric furnace which will be used in connection with the research.

There is no known way at present of producing steel without the use of manganese, and an average of about 12 pounds of manganese is required for every ton of steel.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 14 amounted to 124,823,000 bushels, down 2,088,000 from the preceding week's total of 126,911,000 bushels, but 43,643,000 higher than the 81,180,000 bushels held on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

INDUSTRIAL ADVISOR: Brigadier F.C. Wallace, of Toronto, executive vice-president of Smith and Stone Limited, Georgetown, Ont., has been appointed industrial advisor to the Defence Research Board, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, has announced.

LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES: At the beginning of 1949 there were 600 Labour-Management Production Committees in operation in Canada, 57 more than at the beginning of 1948, it was shown by a report of the Labour-Management Co-operation Service of the Department of Labour, issued on April 28 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

In the first three months of 1949, 22 new committees were added to the list and seven deleted making the total 615 at March 31, 1949.

This was a substantial increase from the 543 committees in operation at the beginning of 1948 and showed an increasing recognition by both management and labour of the mutual benefits to be gained by joint consultation on production problems, Mr. Mitchell pointed out.

The Labour-Management Co-operation Service, of the Industrial Relations Branch, Department of Labour, sponsors the formation of these committees in industry.

The Committees are made up of representatives from management and labour and function in an advisory capacity on all matters affecting industrial productive efficiency. They do not deal with subjects covered by collective bargaining agreements.

A breakdown by industrial groups of the 600 committees in operation at January 1, 1949, showed that recognition of the value of these committees was not confined to any specific industry. The list showed manufacturing with 365 committees, involving 160,470 workers; mining, 41 committees, involving 25,066 workers; communications, 41 committees, involving 10,537 workers; service, 22 committees, involving 12,494 workers; and transportation, 121 committees, involving 56,606 workers.

Among the industries making up the total for the manufacturing group were: textile products, 24 committees; pulp and paper products, 40 committees; lumber and its products, 22 committees; edible plant products, 29 committees; leather products, 23 committees; iron and its products, 93 committees; chemicals and allied products, 22 committees; electrical apparatus, 19 committees.

In the communications category, the telephone industry had 33 committees involving 7,092 workers.

In the construction industry although there were only two committees, 8,840 workers were involved. In retail and wholesale trade there were seven committees involving 1,819 workers.

The largest representation in the transportation industry was steam railways, with 103 committees, involving 51,031 workers.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR: The first shipment of the millions of dollars worth of goods from 34 different countries, now enroute to the 1949 Canadian International Trade Fair was delivered to the Trade Fair grounds, April 22, in the guise of British dockside, self-propelled and truck-mounted cranes. The British machinery and plant equipment manufacturers

will be represented more completely than firms from any other single country at the Trade Fair in this category as part of an accelerated program to capture the Canadian market in this field.

The Gilpin Commission, which recently toured Canada, reported to the British machinery industry that Canada offered a solid and expanding market in the long term sense, for engineering equipment.

Harold Wilson, President of the British Board of Trade in encouragement of the manufacturers said: "There is no more important market for U.K. goods than Canada. The whole weight and encouragement of the Board of Trade and other departments concerned will be behind them in their efforts to get bigger and better business in Canada."

Firms competing in this category will exhibit products from Canada, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, England, Scotland, United States, Switzerland, France, and Italy.

FISHING INDUSTRY: Total catch and landed value of sea fish were lower in March than in the corresponding month last year, due to a sharp falling-off in landings on the Atlantic coast where the catch of most kinds and especially of sardine herring was lower. The quantity caught on the Pacific was about doubled, with marked increases over March last year in herring, rockfishes and clams.

According to the Bureau of Statistics the catch of all species on both coasts in March was 23,808,000 pounds, down 22 per cent from March last year. This brought the cumulative total for the first quarter of the year to 191,419,000 pounds, or 20 per cent from the same period of 1948. The value in March was \$1,217,000 compared with \$1,460,000, and in the first quarter, \$5,028,000 compared with \$5,665,000.

Landings on the Atlantic in March amounted to 16,855,000 pounds valued at \$1,009,000 compared with 27,088,000 pounds valued at \$1,258,000, and in the first quarter, 47,365,000 pounds valued at \$2,850,000 compared with 58,827,000 pounds valued at \$3,443,000.

The catch on the Pacific in March totalled 6,953,000 pounds with a value of \$208,000 compared with 3,310,000 pounds valued at \$202,000. In the first quarter, landings amounted to 144,054,000 pounds valued at \$2,188,000 compared with 181,189,000 pounds valued at \$2,222,000.

U.S. ARMY BAND RETURNS: The United States Army Band which last year delighted thousands of Canadians in Montreal, Kingston and Ottawa, will arrive in Quebec City May 13 for a second series of Army Week concerts. Defence authorities have announced.

While in Canada, the band will visit Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Camp Borden and Hamilton.

REPORTED IN PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

INDIA ANNOUNCEMENT: The House of Commons greeted with applause the announcement by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, on the evening of April 27, that India had decided to remain as a full partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Mr. Drew, made appreciative comments.

The text of the Prime Minister's announcement was as follows:-

"During the past week the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan, and Ceylon, and the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs have met in London to exchange views upon the important constitutional issues arising from India's decision to adopt a republican form of constitution and her desire to continue her membership of the Commonwealth.

"The discussions have been concerned with the effects of such a development upon the existing structure of the Commonwealth and the constitutional relations between its members. They have been conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding, and have had as their historical background the traditional capacity of the Commonwealth to strengthen its unity of purpose, while adapting its organization and procedures to changing circumstances.

"After full discussion the representatives of the Governments of all the Commonwealth countries have agreed that the conclusions reached should be placed on record in the following declaration:

"The Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon, whose countries are united as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations and owe a common allegiance to the Crown, which is also the symbol of their free association, have considered the impending constitutional changes in India."

"The Government of India have informed the other Governments of the Commonwealth of the intention of the Indian people that under the new constitution which is about to be adopted India shall become a sovereign independent Republic. The Government of India have however declared and affirmed India's desire to continue her full membership of the Commonwealth of Nations and her acceptance of the King as the symbol of the free association of its independent member nations and as such the Head of the Commonwealth.

"The Governments of the other countries of the Commonwealth, the basis of whose membership of the Commonwealth is not hereby changed, accept and recognize India's continuing membership in accordance with the terms of this Declaration.

"Accordingly, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India,

Pakistan and Ceylon hereby declare that they remain united as free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations, freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress."

"These constitutional questions have been the sole subject of discussion at the full meetings of Prime Ministers."

(Continued from P.1)

Parliament and the public for several weeks. My colleagues and I have reached the conclusion that no important public interest would suffer if the rest of the business forecast for the present session of Parliament should be postponed until later this year. It is pretty evident that until a general election is held it will be difficult for hon. members on both sides of the House not to give a good deal of attention to the forthcoming election; and probably it would not be an exaggeration to say that already some of the debates in the House have become tinged by the approach of an election campaign....

"In view of the very considerable changes in the membership of the administration, that in itself might be thought a sufficient reason for holding an early election. But there is a much more important reason still. It is that about one-third of a million people have been added to the population of our country. There is no doubt that one of the principal reasons why the people of Newfoundland voted for union with Canada was that they wished once more to be self-governing. Since every measure adopted by the present Parliament applies to Newfoundland as much as it does to the older provinces, it is desirable to take the earliest possible means of ensuring that the people of Newfoundland are represented in Canada and share, through their representatives, in making its decisions...."

STEEL INGOT OUTPUT: Canadian steel mills turned out record tonnages of steel ingots in March, exceeding the high levels of recent months by a considerable margin. Reflecting the growth in output, cumulative figures for the first quarter rose eight per cent over the comparatively high totals for the same period of 1948.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, the month's output of steel ingots advanced to 287,885 short tons from 249,009 in the preceding month and 275,349 in the same month last year. Output for the first quarter of 1949 aggregated 812,881 short tons compared with 753,300 a year earlier.

The daily average output for March reached the high total of 9,286 short tons compared with 8,893 in February and 8,882 in March last year. Daily average for the first quarter was 9,032 tons.

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

POLISH ART TREASURES: Canada's Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, General A.G.L. McNaughton, delivered a statement on the Polish Art Treasures in plenary meeting of the United Nations Assembly on Thursday, April 28, 1949. Partial text is as follows:

"....The Polish representative at our last meeting chose to introduce artificially an extraneous matter for the purpose of misrepresenting the position of my Government before this Assembly. The matter in question is the Polish art collection which was sent to Canada to escape the Nazis. Since this matter forms the subject of a note presented last week (on April 20) to the Canadian Government by the Polish Government and since this communication is presently under study by the Canadian Government, the examination of this subject here in the General Assembly therefore seems singularly inappropriate.

"As this matter is under discussion through other appropriate channels I do not intend therefore to refer to it in any detail here. It is necessary, however, for me to make a brief statement in order to put the record straight.

SAYS STATEMENT FALSE.

"The articles referred to by the Polish Delegate were never at any time in the custody or possession of the Government of Canada or any of its officials. Mr. Katz-Suchy stated that 'The Canadian Government agreed to take custody of these valuables.' This statement is false. Exactly the contrary is true.

"The Polish officials who brought these articles to Canada in 1940 subsequently disagreed amongst themselves about the ownership and disposition of the property in question. When disputes of this nature arise in Canada they can be settled only by agreement amongst the parties, or by a decision of the courts. The Government of Canada does not possess the power to seize property arbitrarily. Questions concerning the ownership and right of possession of property are matters which are settled in Canada in courts of law. The representative of Poland may not be able to understand this but I am sure that it will be understood by the representatives of all genuinely free and democratic countries. The courts of Canada have always been open to the Polish officials who disagreed about the ownership and disposition of the property which they brought to Canada, and the Canadian Government has repeatedly stated that it would assist the courts by making available such information as it possesses concerning the property.

"The Canadian Government has also been willing to assist in settling the dispute by agreement amongst the parties. At one stage in fact officials of the Canadian Government were approached by a representative of the persons in possession of the missing articles. This representative suggested that an arrangement

might be made to settle the question by agreement. With the knowledge of the Polish Government - for the Polish Legation was kept fully informed of these developments - the Canadian officials undertook to explore with the representative the possibility of reaching such an agreement. The offer of settlement to which the Polish delegate refers was not made by the Canadian Government but by a representative of the Poles in whose custody the property remained. The offer was merely communicated by the Canadian officials to the Polish authorities for their consideration. The good offices which were placed at the disposal of the Polish Government in this way have subsequently been subjected repeatedly to false and abusive comment by the Polish Government.

"Mr. Katz-Suchy has also sought to represent that there is some inconsistency on the part of the Canadian delegation between our support for the reports of the ad hoc Political Committee on the study of methods for promotion of international co-operation in the political field and the position which the Canadian Government is alleged to have taken in regard to the question of the Polish art collection. I do not feel that I have to defend before this Assembly the record of Canada in regard to the charges of Mr. Katz-Suchy. The record of my country in the promotion of international co-operation and in fulfilment of its obligations under the Charter is on the record and requires no defence on my part.

"However, I am entitled to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that once again we have an example of Mr. Katz-Suchy introducing an irrelevant topic in order to distract the attention of the Assembly from the real issues before us. We know what these issues are. We have before us a number of specific proposals in the report of the ad hoc Political Committee designed to improve the methods and procedures for the promotion of international co-operation in the political field. These proposals are the product of months of study and deliberation in the interim committee as well as in the ad hoc Political Committee and it is to be regretted that Mr. Katz-Suchy and his delegation, as well as several other delegations, have seen fit not only to withhold their co-operation from the consideration of these important matters but to endeavour on every possible occasion to subject them to abusive misrepresentation.

"Canada has supported and will continue to support every effort to improve the methods and procedures of pacific settlement, for we realize that if these processes are permitted to run smoothly and to be applied effectively, the risk that international disputes and tense international situations might lead to war will thereby be reduced. The Canadian delegation therefore will vote in favour of the reports of the ad hoc Political Committee."