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CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT ON SEAWAY TOLLS

In the House of Commons on March 12, Mr. George Hees, the Minister of Transport, made the following statement regarding the agreement reached between Canada and the United States on the tolls to be charged on the St. Lawrence Seaway:

"The agreement makes provision for the division of the toll revenue; for the method of collection; for future minor amendments of the tariff; and for the constitution of a Joint Tolls Advisory Board to hear complaints with respect to interpretation of the tariff or alleged unjust discrimination. The tariff becomes effective from April 1, 1959.

"The whole concept of defraying the cost of construction and maintenance of the Seaway, including the cost of deepening and maintaining the Welland Canal as an integral part of the Seaway, by charging tolls, was provided for in the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act of 1951. This principle was fully debated at that time, and passed without dissent by Parliament.

"The tariff of tolls agreed to has the same rates recommended by the Tolls Committees of the Seaway entities on June 12, 1958. Some changes and clarifications have been made in the definitions for bulk and general cargoes.

"The tariff of tolls is based on a composite assessment which encompasses a charge per ton of cargo actually carried, together with a charge per gross registered ton of the vessel, and will be applicable to all vessels,

whether fully laden, partially laden, or in ballast.

"The method of assessing and collecting the tolls and rates was adopted with the following objectives:

1. Procedural simplicity which will minimize the cost of collection and expedite the dispatching of vessels.
2. Recovery of the cost of the Seaway and its operation on a basis which will provide economical rates to users and encourage traffic.

The rates will be as follows:

"For Each Passage Through the Entire Seaway - Montreal to Lake Erie: A vessel will be assessed 6 cents per gross registered ton of the vessel, and, in addition, 42 cents per ton of bulk cargo and 95 cents per ton of general cargo carried.

"For Each Passage - Montreal to or from Lake Ontario Only: A vessel will be assessed 4 cents per gross registered ton of the vessel, and, in addition, 40 cents per ton of bulk cargo and 90 cents per ton of general cargo carried. For partial transit of the new Seaway facilities - between Montreal and Lake Ontario - where there are seven locks, the user will be charged for each lock transited 15 per cent of the toll for complete passage.

"For Each Passage Through the Welland Canal Only: A vessel will be assessed 2 cents per gross registered ton of the vessel, and, in addition, 2 cents per ton of bulk cargo and 5

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cents per ton of general cargo carried. In the Welland Canal a partial transit will be assessed 50 per cent of the toll for complete passage irrespective of the number of locks used.

"Other main features of the agreement and tariff of tolls are:

"Commercial vessels carrying passengers will be charged 50 cents per passenger for each lock transited between Montreal and Lake Erie, in addition to the vessel and cargo charge. The charge for a complete transit of the Seaway will be \$7.50 per passenger.

"The tariff will apply to all types of craft using the Seaway, including Government-owned or Government-operated vessels, except vessels of or employed by the Seaway entities.

"Pleasure craft will be subject to the same rates as other vessels, except that there is a minimum charge for pleasure craft of \$2.00 per lock transited. The minimum charge for all other vessels will be \$4.00 per lock transited.

"The unit of weight for the collection of tolls will be a ton of two thousand (2,000) pounds.

"Provision is made for prior registration of vessels and satisfactory security to be given for the payment of charges subsequent to which passage will be permitted. Toll collection and invoicing of accounts, as well as the preparation of statistical data, is assigned to the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority at Cornwall. The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation will participate in the billing and collecting operation, and will share in the annual cost of these services. Charges will be billed to the ship owner or representative promptly and will be payable within fourteen (14) days of the date of billing. An additional charge for nonpayment within this period may be levied in an amount not to exceed 5 per cent of the amount due.

"For through passages to or from Montreal and Lake Ontario, the invoice will show two amounts to be paid: (1) Canadian funds to cover the portion applicable to the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority of Canada, which has been initially set at 71 per cent of the total charges, and (2) the balance of the account, or 29 per cent, in U.S. funds, representing the portion applicable to the Saint Lawrence Development Corporation. Tolls for passage on the Welland Canal will be paid in Canadian funds.

"Bulk cargo as defined in the tariff of tolls includes such goods as are loose or in mass and generally must be shovelled, pumped, blown, scooped or forked in the handling and, without limiting the generality of the term or otherwise affecting its meaning, it is deemed to include barley, buckwheat, corn, dried beans, dried peas, flaxseed, rape seed and other oil seeds, flour, grain screenings, mill feed containing not more than 35 per cent of ingredients other than grain or grain products, oats, rye and wheat, loose, or in

sacks; cement, loose or in sacks; coke and petroleum coke, loose or in sacks; domestic package freight; liquids carried in ships' tanks; ores and minerals, loose or in sacks, including alumina, bauxite, coal, gravel, phosphate rock, sand, stone and sulphur; pig iron, scrap iron and scrap steel; pulpwood, poles and logs, loose or bundled; raw sugar, loose or in sacks; and woodpulp, loose or in bales. All commodities not included in the definition of bulk are classified as general cargo.

"The agreement provides that the toll revenue for that portion of the Seaway between Montreal and Lake Ontario be shared proportionately to the annual charges of the two Seaway entities. The agreement also permits, under appropriate procedure, changes in the list of goods defined as bulk cargo.

"The Joint Tolls Advisory Board to be constituted will consist of four persons, two of whom shall be appointed by the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and two by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. The Board will hear complaints relating to the interpretation of the tariff by the Authority or the Corporation, or with respect to alleged unjust discrimination arising out of the operation of the tariff, and report its findings and recommendations to the Authority and the Corporation.

"The two Seaway entities are charged with the duty of reporting to their respective Governments not later than July 1, 1964, as to the sufficiency of the authorized tolls to meet the statutory requirements, and to cause the tariff to be reviewed accordingly. Reviews of the tariff at other times may of course take place by decision of the two Governments.

"As members know, this great inland waterway will become operative with the opening of the navigation season and we have every reason to look forward to a material increase in the volume of shipping using these facilities. This should be of great assistance to the development of the commerce of this nation and should enable goods produced in Canada to become more competitive in world markets. We look forward to the whole economy of Canada benefitting with the opening of this great seaway project".

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QUEEN'S PLATE ANNIVERSARY

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, will attend the centennial running of the Queen's Plate, classic of Canadian thoroughbred racing, on June 30, during the Royal Visit to Metropolitan Toronto. This race, held at the New Woodbine Race Course, is the oldest annual horse race in North America.

The feature of the meeting will be the presentation by the Queen of the traditional fifty guineas to the winning owner, a custom instituted by Queen Victoria one hundred years ago.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

In the House of Commons on March 5, Mrs. Ellen Fairclough, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, reported on steps which are being taken to improve conditions for the Indian population of Canada.

Mrs. Fairclough said: "...The 1959-60 main estimates for Indian affairs show an increase of \$6,563,652 over 1958-59. The major portion of this increase is attributable to two basically important fields, namely education and welfare of Indians.

"The total increase in operating costs for education is \$2,928,886 and for welfare \$2,322,104. This envisages the employment of 42 additional teachers at day schools and 32 at residential or a total increase in teaching staff of 74. There is an increase of \$350,000 to further assist in the education of Indian children in association with non-Indians and an additional amount of \$765,499 to finance the operation and maintenance of residential schools. The programmes of residential school construction calls for an additional amount of \$795,300 over 1958-59. The increase in the welfare appropriation is largely due to increased requirements to meet relief costs and the care of indigents.

"In the all important field of education, good progress has been made. For example, in the 1958-59 fiscal year the unrevised figures show a total enrolment of 38,836 Indian pupils in all schools. This includes 8,429 pupils who attend non-Indian schools, universities, teachers' colleges and commercial or trade schools and represents an increase of 1,099 over the previous year. The estimates presented for consideration visualize a further increase in numbers and further participation by Indian pupils in higher education.

"In the past academic year we have had about 2,500 students taking post-elementary school training. There were but 200 in 1948 and it is my hope that this tenfold increase will gather momentum with each year. To this end, a system of scholarships offers further incentive to Indian students to continue their education. These scholarships, representing a total value of \$25,000, are offered in addition to the normal assistance given at post-elementary school level. Thirteen awards were made in the current year.

"In both Indian day and residential schools and practical arts courses such as home economics, woodwork, sheet metal work, etc. enrolled 5,898 students. For this programme, 48 instructors were employed for classes enrolling 2,683 boys. For the girls 63 teachers were employed to give instruction in home economics to over 3,215 students.

"It is planned to construct 88 classrooms together with other necessary construction including teachers' residences. In line with the

efforts being made to educate Indian children in association with non-Indians, provision is made for contribution towards the construction of 11 joint schools.

"The residential school construction programme, designed to take care of children of northern migratory Indians and those from broken homes, shows an increase. It includes two hostels for children attending elementary and high schools in Whitehorse and a start on the replacement of one old school, namely St. Mary's residential school, New Westminster agency, British Columbia.

"In the field of Indian housing, the appropriation was doubled in 1958-59 when the amount of \$2 million was provided. This has made possible an expanded programme of housing construction and an improved standard of housing, as well as an increased number of cost sharing agreements with bands with sufficient funds to participate in such undertakings. During 1958-59, a survey of housing was undertaken which will have an important bearing on the building programme in future. The emphasis on financial assistance to Indians in northern and remote areas will continue.

"In 1959-60 it is proposed to maintain the expenditure at the same level of \$2 million and it is estimated this will cover the financing in whole or in part of close to 1,000 housing units. On the average for every dollar expended from public funds in recent years, there has been an equal or greater amount provided from personal contributions by the Indians themselves in the form of labour, cash and materials, band funds, and Veterans Land Act grants available to Indian veterans.

"During the debate on the departmental estimates in the last session of this House, the question of the quantity of relief supplied on behalf of Indians in need was raised by some hon. members opposite. I said at that time that this subject was under constant review. As a result of a thorough and careful study, improved standards and revised procedures of relief administration on behalf of Indians are being introduced throughout the country on April 1 next, in order that Indians in destitute circumstances may receive, as nearly as possible, the same treatment and assistance available for non-Indians in need, in Canadian communities generally.

"As I informed hon. members last year, the Department in 1957 embarked upon a limited experimental programme in the payment of relief in cash and in dollar value orders, replacing relief in kind according to a ration scale. This experiment has proven to be successful and on the basis of this experience and following a comprehensive review of scales of assistance and procedures in effect in various provinces and non-Indian communities

Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values. Members of the Canadian Delegation.

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throughout Canada, these methods are to be adopted universally with effect April 1 next.

"At the same time new scales of food allowances in terms of dollar value have been authorized, which represent a substantial advance over the retail value of the foods listed on the former ration scale, and an increase over the rates payable in the experimental projects which have been in force since 1957.

"These changes are costly, as evidenced by the fact that provision is made for expenditures of approximately \$3 million in excess of those incurred in 1957-58. It is considered essential, however, that adequate assistance be provided for Indians in need, in order that they may maintain a satisfactory standard of living at times when they are unable to do this through their own efforts. It is also the purpose of these changes to bring procedures and standards of assistance in line with those in force in non-Indian communities; to give greater responsibility to the Indians in the management of their own affairs....

"An important change in branch organization has resulted from the recent establishment of an economic development division which is now in the process of being staffed. The establishment of this separate division is reflected in the introduction of two new votes

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which encompass a number of items concerned with fur development, agriculture, urban-type employment and other commercial enterprises designed to permit the attainment by Indians of a higher standard of living. It has been recognized for some time that the rapidly growing Indian population and the relatively low returns from traditional Indian pursuits make it imperative that more attention be paid to economic problems and to employment.

"A placement programme is now in operation with the object of assisting Indians to find employment in a wider range of fields than has hitherto been open to them. Placement officers are now employed in six of the eight administrative regions, with a senior placement officer in Ottawa, and it is planned in 1959-60 to engage two more such officers, one for the Maritimes and one for Saskatchewan. This programme is carried on in co-operation with the National Employment Service and other agencies. Group placements in seasonal employment have been increasingly successful. For example, a total of just under 1,000 Indians from Alberta and Saskatchewan reserves were recruited to the beet fields of southern Alberta in 1958. In addition, in the last two fiscal years, special arrangements were made for the employment of Indians in clearing roads in the Yellowknife-Fort Rae area of the Northwest Territories."

CANADIAN TULIP FESTIVAL

One of the most colourful floral displays to be seen on the North American Continent is provided by Canada's Capital City of Ottawa, particularly during the annual Canadian Tulip Festival.

Over one million tulips will be in bloom during this year's festival from May 15 to May 30. The unique planting method used, called the "flowing mass display", provides camera fans with beautiful settings for colour films.

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CANADA AND UNESCO

With more than 200 people taking part, the first national conference of the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization) was held in Montreal from March 12-14. Delegates from all parts of the country represented groups active in the fields of education, culture, the social services, mass communications and the natural sciences, with Dr. N.A.M. Mackenzie, President of the Canadian National Commission and President of the University of British Columbia, Chairman of the Conference.

Discussion was focussed on Canadian participation in UNESCO's major project: the Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values. Members of the Canadian Dele-

gation to the 1958 UNESCO Conference, held in Paris in November, reported on the main items of interest of that Conference.

The Japanese Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Toru Hagiwara, was the guest speaker at the banquet on the evening of March 12.

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PUBLICATION LISTS AWARDS

Details of fellowships, research grants, graduate assistantships, and other types of financial aid for Canadian university graduate students are contained in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics publication "Awards For Graduate Study And Research, 1959", released recently.

Included in the listing of 1,185 entries of awards or groups of awards are 548 from awarding agencies in the United States, 303 from Canada, 244 from the United Kingdom, and 90 from some 32 other countries.

While only awards tenable by Canadians, or by Canadians together with others, were listed for countries other than Canada, those tenable in Canada have, where possible, a notation as to whether or not they are open to foreign students. Many of the Canadian awards are tenable outside Canada.

The publication also contains other material of interest to prospective applicants for graduate awards, including a bibliography of further sources of information on awards and on higher education in various countries.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT, 1959

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has issued the following statement concerning the United Nations Wheat Conference, which concluded its deliberations on March 10 in Geneva.

The U.N. Wheat Conference, which has just ended, was convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the renewal or replacement of the 1956 International Wheat Agreement, expiring on July 31, 1959. The work of the Conference was divided into two sessions. The first session, which met in Geneva from October 28 to November 6, 1958, addressed itself to a preliminary consideration of the scope and content of a new International Wheat Agreement, designed to help meet the needs of the current world wheat situation. The Conference at its first session appointed a Technical Committee and a Preparatory Committee. These met in London from November 10-21 to examine the proposals advanced, and formulate conclusions and recommendations on the type of operational clauses for inclusion in a new Agreement to be negotiated at the second session.

The Conference resumed at Geneva on January 26, with 52 governments represented - 44 by delegates and 8 by observers. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Interim Committee of the International Trade Organization (ICITO), GATT and the International Labour Office were also represented by observers.

The second session completed its task on March 10. A new International Wheat Agreement has been negotiated and will be submitted to governments for their consideration. The new Agreement will be open for signature in Washington, D.C., from April 6-24, and is intended to come into effect on August 1, 1959, following the expiry of the current agreement.

The salient features of the new agreement are:-

(i) Membership

It is expected that the Agreement will attract a wide membership. The exporting countries will now include Italy, Mexico and Spain - previously importing countries - in addition to Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Sweden and the United States.

The United Kingdom, subject to Parliamentary approval, will be rejoining the Agreement as an importing country.

(ii) Duration

As in the case of the 1953 and 1956 Agreement, the new Agreement is for three years, expiring on July 31, 1962.

(iii) Purposes and Objectives

The objectives of the Agreement have been significantly broadened to include

the promotion of expanded international trade in wheat and of the freest possible flow of this trade, the overcoming of the effects of burdensome surpluses and critical shortages, the encouragement of the use and consumption of wheat and the furtherance of international co-operation generally concerning wheat problems.

(iv) Under the new Agreement, the International Wheat Council will have increased powers and functions. It is authorized to hold an annual review of the world wheat situation, due regard being given to the work of other inter-governmental bodies, such as FAO. The annual review will cover, in the light of the latest information available, developments in national production, stocks, prices and trade, including surplus disposals and special transactions, details of which must be supplied to the Council.

(v) Rights and Obligations

In the preceding Agreements, exporting countries undertook to supply guaranteed quantities to importing countries when prices reached the maximum price; and importing countries undertook to purchase guaranteed quantities from exporting countries when prices reached the minimum price.

This has now been abandoned in favour of a continuing obligation by individual importing countries to purchase when prices are below the maximum price a specified percentage, set out in an annex to the new Agreement, of their annual commercial imports.

When prices reach the maximum price, the exporting countries undertake to make available to the importing countries quantities based on the average of commercial purchases from them over a representative period of years, which moves forward year by year with the Agreement. At the same time, importing countries are released from their percentage obligations; if they wish to obtain their commercial needs from any other source during the maximum price period. This new balance of mutual obligations is designed to promote a freer and larger movement of trade under the Agreement.

(vi) Price Range

The maximum price in the new Agreement is \$1.90 per bushel, as against \$2.00 per bushel in the current Agreement, and the minimum price is \$1.50 per bushel, which remains unchanged, for No. 1 Manitoba northern wheat, basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur.

Provision has been made for a constant review by the Advisory Committee on Price equivalents of current market conditions, including the movement of prices. It will also give appropriate advice to the Executive Committee and the Council in respect of prices moving towards the minimum or towards the maximum, and the application of obligations when the maximum price is reached. This should allow for a greater measure of flexibility in the movement of prices within the price range.

(vii) *Recording of Transactions*

The system of recording transactions, in order to determine the respective obligations of exporting and importing countries, will be continued in the new Agreement in a much simpler form.

In addition to commercial transactions, the Council Secretariat will also maintain records of special transactions (including surplus disposals), defined as those which depart from normal commercial practice as a result of government intervention, although these are not related to the rights and obligations of the member countries. In this way, all the trade in wheat between member countries will fall within the scope of the Agreement.

While the text of the new Agreement indicates a departure from the preceding agreements, it is designed to accord with the actual framework of international trade in wheat between exporting and importing member countries. For this and other reasons, the new Agreement should cover a high proportion of world trade and elicit a wider participation. It is also expected that, by virtue of the broader functions and responsibilities conferred on it, the Council will be able to exercise more effectively its moderating influence on the international adverse effects of national policies, and provide an active forum for inter-governmental consultations on wheat problems.

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CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLANS

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, tabled in the House of Commons on March 6 the report, "Private and Public Investment in Canada - Outlook 1959", which summarizes the results of a recent survey of capital spending intentions.

Mr. Churchill said:

"For the fourth year in succession, capital investment in Canada will exceed \$8 billion, a more than three-fold increase in a period of 12 years. Present investment plans provide for total new capital outlays in 1959 of \$8.3 billion, which is slightly below the \$8.4 billion

expended in 1958. The overall total of intended outlays on construction and machinery, including repairs, gives a grand total for 1959 of \$11.1 billion, which is exactly the same as for 1958. An examination of preceding survey results shows that, in the past, in comparable situations to that now prevailing in Canada, stated investment plans at the beginning of the year have tended to underestimate the amount of work eventually realized. It is quite possible, therefore, that some further filling out of investment programmes will occur during the course of the present year.

"Within the total programme, the principal increases appear in commercial and institutional building and government projects. Increased capital outlays are indicated for each of the three levels of government. Provincial and municipal governments and agencies are faced with steadily expanding requirements for roads, schools, hospitals and many types of local improvements. Somewhat easier supply conditions in the construction industry have helped in getting ahead with these programmes. The Federal Government also is proceeding with an expanded programme of public projects designed to meet the needs for defence installations and other services and to foster national development. Outlays made directly by Federal Departments are estimated to increase by 10 per cent, while expenditures by all three levels of government combined are expected to rise at almost the same rate.

"Within the business sector, commercial construction will apparently go ahead more rapidly than ever. An approximately unchanged rate of capital spending is indicated for a broad range of industry, including agriculture, forest and mineral extraction and processing, secondary manufacturing and transportation and communications. Alone of the major business groups, fuel and power industries have indicated a somewhat lower level of capital expenditures in 1959. This reflects the near completion last year of a number of large-scale undertakings, including the Trans-Canada gas pipe line, the St. Lawrence Seaway and power projects and other major power developments.

"In recent months, there has been a marked increase in the volume of new projects coming forward. Consequently, a larger proportion of the 1959 programme is comprised of work on newly-initiated projects, as opposed to the carry-over of work on undertakings started in previous years. This change in the make-up of the investment programme is indicative of new interest in expansion.

"The rate of anticipated expenditures for 1959 indicates that Canadian industry is continuing to expand rapidly. As a proportion of total national output, anticipated outlays for new plant and equipment compare favourably with levels in most postwar years. This continuing build-up in the tools of industry

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reflects the underlying confidence of the businessman in the future of Canada, and is indicative of the strength and diversity of the expansive forces within the Canadian economy.

"The physical impact of the anticipated investment programme, in terms of its demands upon Canadian industry, will be about the same in 1959 as in the preceding year. Other types of demand, however, will be higher. Consumer purchases are rising. These are indications that inventory liquidation, which exerted a depressive effect on business activity for most of 1958, will soon give way to accumulation. With recovery proceeding steadily in the United States, export prospects are brightening. A sustained demand for capital goods, in conjunction with expanding markets in other fields, gives promise of further growth in production and employment levels in the period ahead."

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AID TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

In the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Donald Fleming, Minister of Finance, made an announcement in the House of Commons on March 12, concerning a Canadian aid programme in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Fleming said:

"For a number of years the United Nations Commission for Asia and the Far East has been conducting a series of investigations and studies of the development possibilities of the lower Mekong River basin. The Mekong is one of the great rivers of the world. Its total length is about 2,600 miles, and its length in the lower basin is 1,600 miles. It actually rises in southern China but for most of its course it flows through or between Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and South Vietnam. The economic health and the political stability and independence of these countries are in large measure related to this great river.

"The development of the lower Mekong offers great economic benefits to the four riparian states and, indeed, to the region as a whole in terms of flood control, irrigation, hydro-electric power and improved navigation. The realization of these benefits, however, is still many years away. Some preliminary planning and survey work has been done but further progress cannot be made without first obtaining more reliable and detailed data on the basin. The development possibilities are so encouraging that the United States, New Zealand, France, Japan and several agencies of the United Nations have already contributed men and resources to carry out these further investigations.

"For our own part, while the bulk of Canada's aid under the Colombo Plan has been and should be concentrated in Commonwealth countries, the Government considered that this project was sufficiently challenging and

promised such great benefits as to warrant some Canadian participation in it. Moreover, the Government was influenced by the fact that these benefits would go in substantial degree to countries with which Canada has been closely associated in recent years through our membership in the International Supervisory Commission in Indochina.

"We therefore made available the services of Lieutenant Colonel G.S. Andrews, Surveyor General of the Department of Lands and Forests of the province of British Columbia, to make a detail study of the problems and estimated costs involved in the aerial surveying and mapping of the Mekong River which, as hon. members will appreciate, is an essential first step toward the eventual realization of the potential benefits of this project.

"On the basis of Colonel Andrews' report, the Canadian Government has now decided to participate in the first priority phase of the survey and mapping of the main stem of the Mekong River. This work, which Canadian companies are particularly well qualified to undertake, is expected to extend over two years and will involve an aggregate Canadian contribution of up to \$1.3 million. It is the intention of the Government to finance this contribution from Colombo Plan funds and which Parliament will be asked to appropriate in 1959-60 and 1960-61".

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FEWER FARMS

The downward trend in the number of farms in Canada, reported for the first time in the 1951 national Census, continued at a quickened pace throughout the 1951-1956 period. With little change in total farm area in the period, there was a further substantial growth in the average size of farm, according to one of a series of analytical reports based on the 1956 Census of Agriculture.

All provinces reported fewer farms in 1956 than in 1951, and the national total fell almost 8 per cent to 575,015 from 623,091 in 1951. Total area of Canadian farms in 1956 was 173,923,691 acres as compared with 174,046,654 in 1951. The Prairie Provinces recorded increases which were more than counterbalanced by decreases in other provinces. Farm land constituted close to 8 per cent of the total Canadian land area in 1956, but if Yukon and the Northwest Territories are excluded, the percentage was 13.

As a result of a larger percentage decrease in the number of farms than in the farm area, the average size of farms in Canada increased more than 8 per cent to 302.5 acres in 1956 from 279.3 in 1951. In 1956 the farms in the Prairie Provinces were, on average, four times the size of Eastern Canadian farms. The average farm size in the Prairie Provinces was 546.1 acres and in the six eastern provinces, 134.1 acres. The number of small farms (under

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