



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 13 No. 51

December 17, 1958

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JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

Mr. Howard Green, the Acting Prime Minister of Canada, has announced that steps are to be taken at once to complete an agreement with the United States which will make possible the co-operative development of the Columbia River.

The text of his statement is as follows:

"The Government has now received a report from a Committee of senior officials under the chairmanship of General A.G.L. McNaughton, set up in December 1957 to conduct economic studies of the potential development of the Columbia River including principles for the division of downstream benefits.

"Steps are to be taken at once to complete an agreement with the United States which will make possible the co-operative development of the river, based on co-ordinated operations, but retaining Canadian ownership and control of projects built on the river in Canada.

"The Government believes that the Canadian and American sections of the International Joint Commission should be instructed by the respective governments to work out methods for determining and apportioning both the downstream benefits from water stored upstream and the value of such storage for flood control. Preliminary discussions along this line have already been held by the Commission and progress has been made toward reaching a solution of this problem.

"Development of the Columbia in the manner

contemplated will mean tremendous expansion in the Kootenay and Okanagan Districts of British Columbia which could not be equalled or so accelerated otherwise. Furthermore, the postponement of such development in favour of some other power scheme could well result in making the development of the Columbia River in Canada impossible.

"In addition, the Government is of the opinion that the early development of the Columbia River will be of great benefit to the lower mainland of British Columbia. It is estimated that with downstream benefits of half the additional energy produced in existing United States plants as a result of regulated flow of storage in Canada, the cost of power in the Vancouver area from downstream benefits together with power from a plant at Mica Creek would average less than 4 mills per kilowatt hour which is far cheaper than power available from any other source in British Columbia in similar large quantities.

"It should be pointed out that the Speech from the Throne on October 14, 1957, contained this paragraph:

"My Ministers are pressing for a favourable settlement of international problems in connection with the Columbia River to clear the way for a joint programme with the province of British Columbia to develop the immense power in the waters of this river'. This policy still stands".

GOVERNMENT FINANCES

Mr. Donald M. Fleming, Minister of Finance, has released the regular monthly statement of the Government's financial operations for October 1958 and the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

For October, budgetary revenues were \$422.7 million, expenditures were \$444 million and there was a deficit of \$21.3 million. For October 1957 revenues were \$432.9 million, expenditures were \$407.2 million and there was a surplus of \$25.7 million.

For the first seven months of the current fiscal year, budgetary revenues were \$2,579.5 million, expenditures were \$2,683.2 million and there was a deficit of \$103.7 million. For the same seven-month period a year ago, revenues were \$2,909 million, expenditures (which included \$100 million to the Canada Council) were \$2,651.8 million and there was a surplus of \$257.2 million.

Mr. Fleming pointed out that while budgetary expenditures of the Department of National Defence were \$115.5 million for October 1958 and \$720.3 million for the seven months to October 31, 1958, \$26.5 million was also disbursed during the month of October and \$138.8 million during the seven-month period from the special defence accounts, reflecting the decision to liquidate the national defence equipment account during the course of the current fiscal year.

Operations of the old age security fund, which are not included in budgetary transactions, resulted in a deficit of \$14.6 million for the month of October 1958 and an accumulated deficit of \$108.2 million for the seven months to October 31, 1958. Last year for the seven months to October 31, 1957 there was an accumulated deficit of \$30.1 million. These deficits were covered by temporary loans by the Minister under the terms of the Old Age Security Act.

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MORE MOTOR VEHICLES

A record 4,459,595 motor vehicles were registered in Canada at the end of the 1957 registration-year, an increase of 5.5 per cent from 1956's previous high of 4,226,474, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual motor vehicle report. Passenger car registrations were up 6.2 per cent to 3,383,419 from 3,187,065 a year earlier and commercial vehicle registrations 3.7 per cent to 1,041,266 from 1,003,829, but motorcycle registrations, including motorized bicycles, dropped 1.9 per cent to 34,910 from 35,580. Data on revenues from motor vehicle registrations, operators and gasoline taxes, sales of gasoline and diesel fuel oil, and on unsatisfied judgment funds are also contained in this report.

At the end of 1945 there were 1,497,081 motor vehicles licensed in Canada, consisting

of 1,160,058 passenger cars, 322,829 commercial vehicles and 14,194 motor cycles. Since then, registrations of all motor vehicles have increased 197.9 per cent, passenger cars by 191.7 per cent, commercial vehicles by 222.5 per cent, and motorcycles by 145.9 per cent.

There were 10 motor vehicles registered for every 37 Canadians at the end of the 1957 registration-year. Saskatchewan and Alberta had the largest number of motor vehicles in relation to population with 10 for every 29 persons, while Ontario continues to lead in passenger cars at 10 per 39 persons. All regions showed increases over the previous year in the number of vehicles per capita except Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia where no change was reported.

Gains in total registrations occurred in all regions, ranging from a low of 2 per cent in Prince Edward Island to a high of 12.9 per cent in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Other increases were: British Columbia, 8.2 per cent; Quebec, 6.8 per cent; Alberta, 6.3 per cent; New Brunswick, 4.9 per cent; Ontario, 4.8 per cent; Manitoba, 4.5 per cent; Newfoundland, 4.1 per cent; and Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, 3.1 per cent each.

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SCHOOLS FOR THE ARCTIC

Bells will soon be ringing at two new schools in the High Arctic. Two young teachers from the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources will fly north next week to take up Arctic postings. It will be their first trip above the tree-line.

One goes to Resolute Bay on Cornwallis Island, some 750 miles south of the North Pole, and the most northerly point for a Canadian school. Resolute is an important Arctic centre. In summer, it is a port of call for the Eastern Arctic patrol, and a supply point for Arctic Weather Stations for the north and west. A knowledge of English and some vocational training are valuable to Eskimos who work with the supply ships and at other activities there.

The second teacher, a young woman, will go to Spence Bay on Boothia Island, which lies midway between the Eastern and Western Arctic. Not so far north as Resolute, Christmas celebrations there will be lit by neon, electric or storm lantern light - probably a combination of all three.

Neither of these communities has had a school before. At Resolute, a young Eskimo girl has been teaching the children with the help of material sent in by Northern Affairs teachers. For several years, part-time classes have been carried on in an Anglican mission at Spence Bay.

Both these teachers will combine school subjects for the children with separate classes in adult education.

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REDUCED IMPORT BALANCE

Canada's commodity imports rose slightly more than 4 per cent in October, as compared with the corresponding month last year, reaching the highest level since May 1957, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total exports for October, however, rose 12 per cent in the same comparison, with the result that the import balance on the month's total foreign trade was considerably lower than a year ago.

Imports from all countries in October had an estimated value of \$499,200,000 as compared to \$479,600,000 in October last year. Total exports for October amounted to \$455,300,000 against \$405,700,000 a year earlier. There was thus an import surplus of \$43,900,000 in the month as against \$73,900,000 last year.

For the ten months ending October, the aggregate value of imports this year was \$4,313,400,000, down 9.8 per cent from \$4,780,200,000 last year. Total exports for the same period were valued at \$4,071,800,000, moderately above last year's \$4,046,900,000. The result was a sharply reduced import balance of \$241,600,000 for the 10-month period as compared to \$733,300,000 in 1957.

Imports from the United States in October rose to \$334,400,000 from \$325,500,000 in the corresponding month last year, the first increase since early last year, but January-October purchases from that country were down to \$2,990,800,000 from \$3,422,100,000. Exports to the United States in October rose to \$273,300,000 from \$259,500,000, but 10-month shipments fell to \$2,401,900,000 from \$2,439,300,000. The import balance with the United States eased to \$61,100,000 in October from \$66,000,000, and the 10-month total dropped sharply to \$588,900,000 from \$982,800,000.

Purchases from the United Kingdom rose in October to \$49,300,000 from \$44,300,000, but the 10-month total was virtually unchanged at \$437,700,000 versus \$436,000,000. Total exports to the United Kingdom were substantially higher in October at \$77,000,000 versus \$55,800,000 in the corresponding month last year, and the January-October value rose to \$640,100,000 from \$604,100,000. The export balance with the United Kingdom thus rose in October to \$27,700,000 from \$11,500,000 a year earlier, and for the 10 months to \$202,400,000 from \$168,100,000.

Imports from other Commonwealth countries declined to \$23,300,000 in October from \$26,000,000 a year earlier and to \$175,100,000 in the 10 months from \$203,600,000. Total exports to these countries were slightly higher in the month at \$19,800,000 versus \$19,600,000, but 10-month shipments were substantially higher at \$237,000,000 versus \$187,700,000.

Purchases from all foreign countries other than the United States rose in October to \$92,200,000 from \$83,800,000, but 10-month imports fell to \$709,800,000 from \$718,500,000.

000. Sales to these countries rose in October to \$85,200,000 from \$70,800,000 but in the January-October period the total fell to \$792,800,000 from \$815,800,000.

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NEW BRIDGE AND HIGHWAY

Alberta's most modern highway, a 68-mile section of four lane divided road between Airdrie and Red Deer, was declared officially open at a ceremony on the crest of Antler Hill, on October 31. Premier E.C. Manning performed the ribbon-cutting for the first highway of this design and calibre in Western Canada. The new type road has a gently sloping median strip which is 24 feet wide, permanently grassed and flanked by fully paved four-foot shoulders. One short section has a 16-foot wide depression and three-foot inner shoulders. Double traffic lanes are 12 feet wide each, outer shoulders are 10 feet. The road is designed for road limits of 18,000 pounds per axle, 72,000 pounds gross. No grade is steeper than 5.7 per cent, no curve is sharper than 1.5 degrees in 100 feet (3,820 foot radius). Minimum sight distance at any point is 900 feet. Mayors from towns of central Alberta, representatives of Chambers of Commerce, officials of the Alberta Motor Association and of the Alberta Motor Transport Association, and several hundred private citizens gathered to mark the occasion. A military band from RCAF Station Penhold was in attendance.

The tremendous improvement and expansion of Alberta's highway system was signalled in November with the official opening of the new million dollar bridge over the North Saskatchewan at Drayton Valley. The steel and concrete, five piered structure is an integral part of the road network south and west of Edmonton. It was two years in construction.

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VEGETABLE OILS INDUSTRY

The value of factory shipments from 11 plants engaged in the extraction of vegetable oils in 1957 was at a record \$60,952,000, up sharply (44 per cent) from 1956's total of \$42,239,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual report of the industry. The previous peak total was 1951's \$60,202,000. Employees eased to 656 from 672 in 1956, but salaries and wages climbed to \$2,663,000 from \$2,584,000; material costs to \$50,899,000 from \$37,108,000 and value added by manufacture to \$8,925,000 from \$5,444,000.

Factory shipments of major products in 1957 included the following: soya bean oilcake, \$20,471,000 (\$12,334,000 in 1956); raw soya bean oil, \$19,626,000 (\$10,685,000); raw linseed oil, \$5,772,000 (\$4,859,000); linseed oilcake, \$4,076,000 (\$4,386,000); and special linseed oil, \$3,882,000 (\$4,293,000).

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHER

The Commissioner for the Royal Visit has announced that Donald Charles McKague, camera portraitist of Toronto, has been commissioned by the Canadian Government to take official portraits in colour of Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip.

Portraits in advance of the 1959 tour of Canada will be required and Her Majesty approved the selection of a Canadian photographer for the purpose. Mr. McKague was chosen after careful consideration of the requirements and availability for the assignment.

Mr. McKague has left by air for London, where he will make arrangements for the sittings. He will do the processing of the portraits in London and present the finished prints to the Queen and Prince Philip for their approval. Details concerning the release and distribution of these photographs will be announced at a later date.

Mr. McKague's work has been recognized by four first awards in the annual show of the Ontario Society of Photographers (1955), a world competition; and the Gaeverd Medal for print quality in 1955, 1956 and 1957.

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AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND

The Department of External Affairs announced last week that Canada and Finland have concluded an agreement modifying their visa requirements for temporary visitors.

Beginning January 1, 1959, Canadian citizens who are bona fide non-immigrants (visitors, not seeking employment or permanent residence) and who are in possession of valid Canadian passports, may, without obtaining Finnish visas, visit Finland for periods not exceeding three months. This period of three months is reduced by the combined total of any period or periods of stay in Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden in the six-month period prior to the date of entry to Finland. Where a visit to Finland exceeds three months, or the combined period of visits to all four countries exceeds three months, Canadian citizens will be granted residence permits, free of charge, for an extension of stay in Finland.

Finnish citizens, who are bona fide non-immigrants and who are in possession of valid Canadian passports, will be granted at the Canadian legation in Helsinki, visas, free of charge, valid for an unlimited number of entries to Canada during a period of twelve months from the date of issue of such visas.

This agreement in no way exempts Canadian or Finnish citizens from the necessity of complying with the immigration and residence regulations of Finland and Canada.

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ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

The Massey Architectural Awards for 1958 were presented at the National Gallery in Ottawa on December 5. In the absence of the Governor General, Mr. Howard Green, Minister of Public Works, and Acting Prime Minister, made the presentations - two of which went to Masseys.

The gold medal, highest prize for Canadian architecture, was awarded to Mr. Robert Fairfield and Mr. C.E.T. Rounthwaite of Toronto for the design of the Stratford Festival Theatre. Ottawa buildings won two of the eight silver medals, as the best in their respective classes: the City Hall designed by Rother, Bland and Trudeau of Montreal and the Hog's Back Park Buildings designed by Mr. Hart Massey. A silver medal was shared by Mr. Geoffrey Massey, son of Raymond Massey, the actor, and Professor Arthur Erickson of the University of British Columbia for the design of Mr. Massey's house in West Vancouver. The largest number of awards were won by John R. Parkin and associates of Toronto.

Mr. Green paid a tribute to the Governor General, where he said that Mr. Massey had done more than anyone to encourage the arts in Canada.

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NATO DELEGATION

Mr. Sidney Smith, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. George Pearkes, the Minister of National Defence and Mr. R. O'Hurley, the Minister of Defence Production left by air on December 10 for Paris where they will attend NATO Ministerial meetings from December 16-18. They will be joined by Mr. Donald Fleming, the Minister of Finance.

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NEW POLICY FOR NATO FORCE

Army Headquarters has decided to adopt a three-year cycle of rotation for troops serving with Canada's NATO force in Germany. The new policy will mean a three-year term of duty in Germany in place of the present two-year tour.

Final development of the new plan calls for the rotation of one third of the Canadian brigade group each year. As a result, a majority of the troops in the brigade will always be familiar with, and accustomed to, the area in which they operate. Another advantage of this policy will be a substantial drop in the cost of transporting troops to and from Europe.

Administrative personnel and troops serving with service units in the overseas brigade will be rotated on a man-for-man basis.

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