



CANADA

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CANADA RAISES A NEW FLAG

The following address was made by Prime Minister L.B. Pearson on the occasion of the inauguration of the new national flag of Canada at Ottawa on February 15:

On September 5, 1945, an Order-in-Council was passed declaring the Red Ensign to be Canada's national flag pending a decision of the Parliament of Canada.

Such a decision was made in December 1964 after long and vigorous Parliamentary debate and careful committee consideration and recommendation.

As a result of this decision by the Canadian Parliament and on the advice of the Government of Canada, Her Majesty, our beloved Queen, was pleased to issue a proclamation that the flag we are about to raise today should be the flag of Canada.

So, at noon today, in this eighth month of our ninety-eighth year as a Confederation, our new flag will fly for the first time in the skies above Canada and in places overseas where Canadians serve.

If our nation, by God's grace, endures a thousand years, this day, the fifteenth day of February, 1965, will always be remembered as a milestone in Canada's national progress.

It is impossible for me not to be deeply moved on such an occasion or to be insensible to the honour and privilege of taking part in it.

APPEAL TO PATRIOTS

There are many in this country who regret the replacement of the Red Ensign by the Red Maple Leaf. Their feelings and their emotions should be honoured and respected. But I am sure, now that the decision

has been made by the representatives of the Canadian people in Parliament assembled, that all Canadians, as good patriots, will accept that decision and fly with pride our national flag.

This ceremony today is not a break with history but a new stage in Canada's forward march from a group of separate and scattered and dependent colonies to a great and sovereign Confederation stretching from sea to sea and from our southern border to the North Pole.

No step by which we have advanced to our present position among nations has been an easy one and none has been taken without some nostalgia for the past.

This is inevitable in the succession of new beginnings that mark a nation's progress, as they do the course of human events, for each brings to an end a stage for which deep attachment often lingers.

The patriotic motives that have led Parliament to adopt a new Canadian flag do not include disrespect for our past or for the emblems of that past.

We salute the future, but we honour the past on which the future rests.

SYMBOL OF UNITY

As the symbol of a new chapter in our national story, our Maple Leaf Flag will become a symbol of that unity in our country without which one cannot grow in strength and purpose, the unity that encourages the equal partnership of two peoples on which this Confederation was founded, the unity also that recognizes the contributions and the cultures of many other races.

And so the new flag, joining and rising above the milestones of our history, today takes for the first time its proud place as the emblem of Canada — "The Maple Leaf, our emblem dear".

May the land over which this new flag flies remain united in freedom and justice, a land of decent, God-fearing people, fair and generous in all its dealings, sensitive, tolerant and compassionate towards all men, industrious, energetic, resolute, wise and just in the giving of security and opportunity equally to all its cultures, and strong in its adherence to those moral principles which are the only sure guide to greatness.

Under this flag may our youth find new inspiration for loyalty to Canada, for a patriotism based not on any mean or narrow nationalism but on the deep and equal pride that all Canadians will feel for every part of this good land.

God bless our flag! And God bless Canada!

INTEREST IN CANADIAN STAMPS

A tremendous increase in interest in Canadian stamps, demonstrated by an unprecedented volume of orders received at the Post Office's Philatelic Sales Office at Ottawa, has pushed the sale of Canadian postage stamps for philatelic purposes to a new high during the past year.

Post Office records show that the total of philatelic sales for 1964 amounted to over \$775,000, compared to \$438,000 in 1963, and that the total number of orders was up 87 per cent over that of the previous year.

STAMPS AS INVESTMENT

The basic reason for the upsurge is that postage stamps are now being regarded more and more as an investment and more people are buying them in quantity with a view to re-selling them later at a profit. The practice, it was noted, is perfectly legal.

The demand for some stamps has been so great that, though single copies of most recent issues are still available, "plate blocks" of some stamps are now completely sold out. For example, the seven-cent regular-issue stamp released last March was sold out of plate blocks by August. Plate blocks are stamps with the printing-plate number and the name of the manufacturer printed on the white paper margin.

The Post Office has also noted a marked increase in the number of philatelists taking advantage of the Deposit Account Service, a service by which philatelists receive their requirements of new issue stamps without the need of submitting an order for each issue. In 1964, the total number of depositors increased by 25 per cent.

STUDY OF RURAL POVERTY

A project for case studies of families in four rural areas of Canada will be undertaken by the Canadian Welfare Council under contract with the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Ad-

ministration, it has been announced by the federal Minister of Forestry, Mr. Maurice Sauvé. The Welfare Council will do the rural study as part of its long-range study of poverty in Canada.

The four regions to be studied are the Interlake area of Manitoba, Lanark County in eastern Ontario, Pontiac, Gatineau and Papineau Counties in western Quebec, and Inverness County in Nova Scotia. The cost of the project will be slightly more than \$23,000.

Describing the project, Reuben C. Baetz, executive director of the Canadian Welfare Council, said: "A good deal of statistical material has already been gathered about economic conditions of people in various geographic regions of Canada, but for the most part this information deals with aggregates and averages. We are going right into people's homes, to find out from them what their economic and social opportunities are, how they feel about their situation, and what they are doing, or plan to do, about it. Then we can relate this information to the statistical averages and, it is hoped, make some contribution to an understanding of what poverty is and how to deal with it better. As much as possible, we shall work with local and provincial agencies."

The work will begin immediately. David Woodsworth, director of research at the Council, will prepare the study design and instruments and coordinate the studies. Interviewing will begin on March 15 and the final report will appear by June 30.

RCN HOISTS NEW FLAG

On February 15, the new Canadian flag waved in many foreign breezes as Canadian servicemen the world over held ceremonies similar to those on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Alaska, Puerto Rico and the remote Southwest Pacific were among the foreign places to see the Maple Leaf Flag unfurled. Other major ceremonies were held by contingents on peace-keeping duty in Cyprus, Germany, France and the United Arab Republic.

In Alaska, the Royal Canadian Regiment took time out for flag ceremonies from its participation in the U.S. Army exercise "Polar Strike". In the West Indies, the U.S. Navy fired a 21-gun salute as aircraft and helicopters of the Royal Canadian Navy flew over San Juan, Puerto Rico. The new Canadian flag was hoisted on board HMCS "Bonaventure", the destroyer escort "Chaudière" and the ocean escort "Cap de la Madelaine" at the U.S. naval base at San Juan.

RCN units on winter exercises held similar observances aboard the operational support ship "Provider" and the destroyer escort "St. Laurent" at St. Croix, in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Nearer the equator, the naval repair ship "Cape Scott", which had taken part in the medical expedition to Easter Island, raised the new flag en route to the Galapagos Islands.

And at the North Pole, a new Canadian flag, encased in a canister, had been dropped earlier by an "Argus" aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force during a navigation flight.

HIGHWAYS FOR ATLANTIC PROVINCES

The Prime Minister announced recently that the Government proposed at the next session of Parliament to seek approval of a programme of assistance for the construction and improvement of trunk highways in the Atlantic Provinces and to include in this programme the provision of special assistance to permit an early start on a new bridge across the St. John River at Saint John, New Brunswick.

FINANCING

The programme will involve an expenditure of \$30 million by the Federal Government over the next three years, to be financed from special appropriations to the Atlantic Development Board. The additional appropriations will enable the Board to continue and expand the earlier programme of highway assistance announced in July 1964, when a sum of \$10 million was allocated from the Atlantic development Fund to meet pressing trunk-highway needs in the Atlantic region. Under the new programme, \$9 million will be available to each of the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, and \$3 million to Prince Edward Island.

The assistance for each province will be worked out between the Atlantic Development Board and the government of the province. The federal contribution for any trunk-highway project will be limited to 50 per cent of the cost of that project.

The trunk-highway programme for the Atlantic Provinces is regarded by the Federal Government as a vital contribution to the economic development of the region.

The provision of a new crossing of the St. John River at Saint John has long been regarded as an essential link in a trunk-highway system, particularly between the Atlantic region and New England. The Federal Government has approved assistance that will permit the Saint John bridge to be started with the least possible delay.

ADMINISTRATION

The bridge will be administered by the Saint John Harbour Bridge Authority. Tolls will be charged, and the bridge should eventually become self-supporting. Meanwhile, because of the heavy capital expenditure involved, some form of interim assistance was considered necessary. To meet this need, the Federal Government has agreed to cover the difference between the annual expenditures agreed on and the toll revenues. These amounts are to be repaid by the Bridge Authority when toll revenue permits. General agreement on the nature of this assistance has been reached following discussions with the provincial authorities, the city of Saint John and the Saint John Harbour Bridge Authority.

PENSION AGE LOWERED

Under a federal plan announced by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on February 17, the \$75-a-month universal pensions will in future be paid to people when they reach 65 years of age. By 1970, when the plan will be in full operation, over 1,600,000 people will be drawing old-age-security cheques, compared with just under one million at present.

The pension bill now before Parliament provides that the monthly \$75 will automatically be increased if the cost of living rises.

Mr. Pearson said that, under the recommendation now being made to Parliament, the age at which the universal pension is paid will be lowered in stages, a year at a time. Starting next January, pension payments will be made to people who have reached 69, instead of 70, as at present. The following year, the full pension will be paid at 68 — and so on, until, by January 1970, everyone will be entitled to the pension at the age of 65.

This proposal involves an amendment to the Canada Pension Plan bill. As it now stands, the bill would make old-age security available before 70. But persons taking the pension before 70 would receive a smaller amount; anyone beginning immediately he or she reached 65 would receive \$51 a month.

Under the revised proposal, the pension will be paid automatically at 65 in the full amount of \$75 plus the cost-of-living adjustment.

The old-age-security pension will not be subject to any retirement or means test. It will be unconditional for all who qualify under the residence rules.

INCOME TAX CHANGES

To deal with the situation of those people who continue to work after 65, or who have substantial incomes from other sources, the Prime Minister announced the Government's intention of recommending a change in the Income Tax Act. The additional personal deduction of \$500, now available to people who have reached 65, will in future begin at 70. This change will be made in stages, corresponding to those at which the old-age-security pension becomes payable.

The withdrawal of the additional deduction will not offset in any way the new pension benefit for people who have little or no other income; it will affect only those people, between the ages of 65 and 70, who have other resources sufficient to put them into a taxable category.

In making this announcement, the Prime Minister referred to the work of the joint Parliamentary committee on the Canada Pension Plan. In many of the representations to the committee, it was urged that old-age security be paid at the full \$75 a month from 65, rather than that the amount be reduced.

The Prime Minister also said that the Government would be proposing other amendments to the bill. These would be on the lines recommended by the committee, though not in all respects identical.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF MEN

The following statement has been issued by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, in observance of Brotherhood Week, February 21-28:

Our efforts to build a more peaceful and more securely ordered world depend, in the final analysis, on better human relations. That, as I see it, is the message which Brotherhood Week is designed to recall to our minds each year.

The idea of brotherhood recognizes the equality of all men regardless of their race, colour or creed. It enjoins respect for human rights and human dignity. But it also calls for a more positive approach to human understanding. For hatred and prejudice, suspicion and intolerance are essentially born of ignorance about our fellow men, about their feelings and their aspirations.

NO ROOM FOR NON COMMUNICATION

In our contracting world, there is less excuse than there has been at any previous time in our history for a failure in human communication. Not only are we beginning to know more about one another, but we are becoming more aware of the identity of our interests as world citizens. We are coming to recognize that world peace and world prosperity, which are the twin objectives for which all of us are working, are indivisible.

But there is a further aspect to the conception of brotherhood, and that is the responsibility we have, each and every one of us, towards our fellow men. We have recognized this responsibility within the context of our communities and national societies and we are now reaching the stage where this recognition is being increasingly reflected on the international plane. I look upon international co-operation as a natural extension of the idea of brotherhood.

I believe that, as Canadians, we have a special part to play in advancing this broader conception of brotherhood. The qualities of understanding and tolerance which are inherent in that conception are qualities that have been and will continue to be instrumental in helping us to enlarge the dimensions of our national life. It is in this spirit that I would warmly endorse the observance of Brotherhood Week and ask all Canadians to support it in word and in deed.

THE NEW FLAG AT SEA

The national flag of Canada may be flown henceforth as the proper national colors for all purposes by vessels coming under the Canada Shipping Act, it was recently announced by Transport Minister J.W. Pickersgill.

Ships of the Canadian Coast Guard and other vessels in the government service that had previously flown the Blue Ensign by authority of royal warrants have been flying the new flag since noon on February. Privately-owned vessels may do the same.

It will be proper to use the new design as a "courtesy flag". Foreign vessels visiting Canadian ports customarily fly such a flag at the foremast.

MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL STATISTICS

The gross current revenue and expenditure of municipal governments in Canada continued to rise moderately in 1963 and 1964, according to the annual report entitled "Financial Statistics of Municipal Governments, Revenue and Expenditure, Preliminary 1963, Estimates 1964", issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Total gross current expenditures rose from \$2,268,910,000 in 1963 to \$2,418,265,000 in 1964, owing chiefly to increased expenditures on education, protection services and debt charges. The greater expenditures on services were provided for largely by higher taxation revenue.

Estimates of gross debenture debt at December 31, amounting to \$5,456,689,000 and \$5,891,478,000 for 1963 and 1964 respectively, indicate a continuation of increases experienced in previous years.

VETERANS LOWER ENSIGN

At noon on February 15, the Canadian Red Ensign was retired with honour at Canadian hospitals operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and at Vimy Park in France, and the new national flag was raised with appropriate ceremony.

While the ceremony varied from place to place, it everywhere included participation by the Canadian Armed Forces and by local leaders of major veteran's associations and attendance by veterans themselves, by patients where possible, and by the general public.

CEREMONY AT VIMY

At the Vimy ceremony, Mr. George Ignatieff, Canadian Ambassador to the North Atlantic Council, represented the Government of Canada; Mr. R.E. MacBeath, First Vice-President of the Royal Canadian Legion, and Mr. J.C. Lundberg, President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada and a Vice-Chairman of the National Council of Veterans Associations in Canada, represented Canadian veterans; and a military contingent composed of detachments from Canada's NATO forces, 4 Canadian Infantry Brigade Group and 1 Air Division, was in attendance.

Following the inauguration of the new flag, the retired Ensigns were deposited in appropriate places in the DVA institutions, usually the chapels of the hospitals. At Vimy, the Ensign was placed in the visitors' room of the federal building.

COAL PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS

The production of coal rose 6.7 per cent in 1964, to 11,288,666 tons from the preceding year's 10,575,694, while landed imports declined slightly (0.6 per cent), to 14,653,517 tons from 14,740,448. December's output advanced to 1,212,566 tons from 1,099,924, while landed imports declined to 514,161 tons from 617,818.

Area figures for 1964 show that New Brunswick's output rose to 997,873 tons from 886,336 the preceding year, Saskatchewan's to 1,994,039 tons from 1,873,556, Alberta's to 2,962,486 from 2,289,943, and British Columbia's to 1,041,313 from 970,915. Nova Scotia's production fell to 4,292,955 tons from 4,554,944.