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## Canadian Politics

CONFIDENT CANADA comes to the threshold of 1947 after a year of vital developments and decisions which left a historic mark on the Dominion's 1946 political scene.

In the wake of the old year lies the still-unfinished story of Soviet espionage, the collapse of the Dominion-Provincial conference, government defeat in three federal by-elections, steps to select a distinctive Canadian flag and passage by parliament of a Canadian citizenship bill and a heavy slate of other important government legislation.

Ahead, the new year promises another lengthy and decisive parliamentary session, new tests of the government's post-war programs and increasing Canadian activity in the international sphere.

For 1946, the most stunning development of all was the Russian spy inquiry which echoed within the walls of parliament itself when it resulted in the arrest and conviction of the lone Labor-Progressive member, Fred Rose, and touched off through its other ramifications long, and at times bitter, debates.

In all, parliament sat 5½ months—from March to August—and its debates covered a wide range of subjects in the national and international fields. Included among the most important bills passed by the Commons and the Senate were those which did these things:

Clearly defined Canadian citizenship; extended a \$1,250,000,000 loan to Britain; provided for a re-distribution which will boost the Commons membership from 245 to 255; approved Canadian participation in several international organizations; established an atomic energy control board; approved trade treaties with Mexico and Colombia, and strengthened the Combines Investigations Act.

In addition, a parliamentary committee recommended the adoption of a revamped version of the Canadian ensign as a distinctive Canadian flag but its report was not acted upon before prorogation. Another committee tussled unsuccessfully with the disturbing problem of industrial unrest.

Outside parliament, the government took drastic action to protect the nation's economy against external inflationary tendencies by adjusting the Canadian dollar to parity with the United States dollar.

There were three by-elections, caused by deaths and a retirement. Progressive Conservative candidates were victorious in Portage la Prairie, former Liberal seat, and Toronto Parkdale, formerly Progressive Conservative, while a Social Credit adherent won Pontiac, which had been in the Liberal column.

As the year-end approaches, political parties are preparing for the Monday by-election in Richelieu-Vercheres, vacated by the death of Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, an independent.

Death of Mr. Cardin, whose service in the Commons spanned 35 years, left Prime Minister Mackenzie King, who has sat in the house 29 years, the member with the longest service. Mr. King, now 72, in 1946 also entered his 20th year as prime minister, breaking the record of tenure for all commonwealth prime ministers over the last two centuries.

Federal cabinet changes in the last month of the year saw Justice Minister St. Laurent, who had been also administering the department of external affairs since Sept. 4, resign from the justice ministry and take on the external affairs post on a full-time basis.

James L. Hsley transferred from finance to the ministry of justice and Douglas C. Abbott became minister of finance. Mr. Abbott retains the joint army-navy defence post on a temporary basis.

The passing year saw worsening of Dominion-Provincial relations with the break-down of the Dominion-Provincial conference, at which the federal government sought a realignment of financial responsibility between the Dominion and the provinces. Now it seems likely the conference will be revived and, with a new minister of finance, prospects for a successful outcome appear improved.

Meantime there is the federal budget offer of individual agreements with the provinces, which took the form of new financial agreements with several provinces, including British Columbia, toward the close of the year.

## SIGHT SAVING IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY, Australia (C)—The New South Wales state education department has established what it claims to be the first sight-saving school in Australia.

The school, in operation in Sydney, is attended by 16 pupils, aged nine to 13, selected after a medical survey of school children in the metropolitan area showed that up to nine per cent have defective eyesight.

The selected children have defective eyesight in varying degrees. Most of them wear spectacles and their common complaint is short-sightedness. The aim of the school is to preserve their existing eyesight and restore sight to normal as far as possible.

Special fluorescent lighting is used and the children work at adjustable desks permitting them to get close to their work or away from it as their affliction demands.

Their work is set approximately at right angles to their line of vision, and specially-selected teachers are well-versed in their handicaps individually.

"Blackboards" are of ground glass in dark green and primrose yellow. Blue chalk is used on the primrose "blackboard" and yellow chalk on the green "blackboard." Children with short sight are given thick pencils and thick pen nibs and are taught to write in big, bold characters.

The education department intends to establish other sight-saving schools throughout the state if the experiment is successful.

### REMOVING STAINS

To remove lipstick stains, wash white clothes in hot suds and bleach with peroxide if necessary.

### 20 YEARS AGO

December 20, 1926

The Kitkatla Concert Band received delivery of a number of new musical instruments, including a tuba, tenor horn, valve trombone, baritone horn and saxophone. The cost of the instruments exceeded \$3,000. The band planned to get new uniforms as well.

The Prince Rupert Board of Trade decided to join the proposed Associated Boards of Central B.C. The organization was planned to include boards from Vanderhoof, Smithers, Prince George and other centres.

The Stewart Board of Trade complained that since Stewart and Prince Rupert were the only important B.C. ports that lacked roads to the interior. This condition should be remedied. It suggested that an appeal be made to provincial Public Works Minister W. H. Sutherland.



GOLDWYN GIRLS ANSWER BISHOP'S PLEA—The Goldwyn Girls, now in England to display American fashions, heard that the Bishop of London, Dr. J. W. C. Wand, had appealed for gifts for his £750,000 fund to reconstruct church life in his diocese, so visited the bishop at his palace and contributed towards the fund. Seated around the bishop in his palace are, left to right, Diana Mumbly, Irene Vernon, Mary Ellen Gleason, Karen X. Gaylord and Martha Montgomery.

## Xmas Prices Mar Holiday Joy

(continued from page 1)

purchaser has his doubts. Liquor isn't rationed—it's almost unavailable—and the technique is to cultivate the same wine merchant until one is regarded as a "regular" and eligible for occasional sales.

"The food ministry tells us there's more beer and at least as much spirits as last year, but I'm sure I don't know where it's all gone," said one vendor gloomily. "At least I'm not getting it." His meaning wink said it was going to the black market, which undoubtedly does exist, though without the organized vigor of European countries. Millions of Britons couldn't find a market wanted one.

Left to regulate them are their Christmas stores where all essentials sell for 33 per cent. Such are bolstered by a 33 per cent purchase tax. A few examples of toys: doll's pram, 26 14s; teddy bears, £3 to £9; doll's houses, £9 to £20.

Variety of Goods  
But stores are much better stocked with goods of all sorts than they were last year even if prices are staggering. Christmas shopping budgets have to undergo rapid revision.

Clothing remains among the most popular of gifts from the

recipient's point of view but is still rationed tightly, and most people require their coupons for their own or their children's use. Gloves, stockings and lingerie—traditional gifts—all take coupons.

At least the surroundings show an improvement over a year ago. There are still great gaps in cities all over Britain—and will be for years—but most of the rubble has been cleared away and tottering walls which were beyond repair have been levelled.

Shopfronts are a lot brighter, too, with more and more replacing the heavy cardboard which has filled up window space for two or three years with plate glass. Paint is still difficult to get but a little has gone a long way in brightening up shabby trims.

The general housing situation still remains one of Britain's grimmest problems, but tens of thousands of homes have been made available during the year by repair and new construction, and all these have absorbed families which last Christmas were separated or unsuitably housed.

It's these people, and those who are hanging on grimly for long-deferred better times, who put a ring in Britain's "Merry Christmas."

## "NEW DEAL" FOR NURSES

DUBLIN (C)—A new "charter for Irish nurses" is envisaged in plans for improving wages and working conditions recommended in a circular letter sent out by the ministry for local government and public health.

Minimum pay for staff nurses should be £100 (\$400) a year through Eire, the letter states, in addition to "normal rations, apartments, laundry and uniform."

Hours of work are governed by size of staffs, it says, but "so far as practicable, nurses should not be required to remain on duty for more than 96 hours a fortnight."

"These new rates and improvements may help to stop the rush from hospitals here to others in England," said one spokesman for the nurses.

ADVISES BIG FAMILIES  
STAINES, Middlesex, England (C)—Marry young, have a big family and "you will stay young and always be happy," says great-grandma Jane McGuinness, 67, who married at 17. She has 18 children, 47 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"Three of kind gives pair full house" was the newspaper heading of a story about the birth of triplets in one midwestern U.S. city.

### INCOME TAX

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