

Approves Commonwealth Position Assumed By Canada

By STEWART MacLEOD
Canadian Press Staff Writer
LONDON (CP)—"For good or ill," Lord Hailsham said Tuesday night, "Canada now has assumed a position of initiative in Commonwealth affairs."

And the lord president of the council added: "We in Britain regard it as wholly to the good."

He told a Canada Club dinner meeting that this new initiative was underlined by Prime Minister Dielenbaker when he addressed an audience of nearly 7,000 in London several weeks ago.

"In preaching with his incomparable fervour . . . he was asserting, perhaps less obviously, but nonetheless inescapably, Canada's right and willingness to undertake obligations hitherto tacitly assumed to be the exclusive province of the United Kingdom itself."

Britain Pledges Faith In Plan For Free Trade

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain Monday pledged continued faith in its plan for a 17-nation European free trade area, currently bogged down in Anglo-French differences.

Reginald Maudling, cabinet minister responsible for the question, said in the House of Commons that the government will begin consultations as soon as possible with all the other governments concerned in the hope of clarifying the situation.

Maudling also explained the background of Britain's decision this weekend not to attend committee talks on the subject in Paris this week following a statement issued by the French government rejecting the British plan.

"The meeting arranged for this week could clearly not take place as the whole basis upon which the committee has been operating — namely the unanimous determination of all governments to secure the establishment of a free trade area — seeks to have been brought into question," Maudling said.

Britain is anxious to avoid exclusion from European markets when the six-power common market project of France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg comes into operation Jan. 1.

"The consequences of such a situation could clearly be serious," Maudling said.

"has inaugurated a new age in Commonwealth development."

WIDER CO-OPERATION
It now was up to every country in the Commonwealth to do its part. Commonwealth co-operation should not end with economic assistance, technical aid and trade, he said. There should be "the closest contact" between business firms, universities, churches, scientists, religious communities and individuals.

In this respect, he said, "again Canada is plying a pioneering part."

He said the strength of the Commonwealth lies in the many, but often intangible, bonds that holds its peoples together. There was no simple definition for it. "The fabric of the Commonwealth has continued to defy human analysis or human prediction."

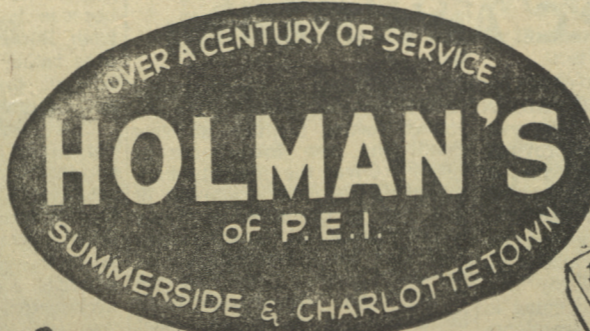
It may be, he said, impractical to devise central institutions for it, nonsense to despair of it, impossible to generalize about it, wicked to try to exploit it, extremely risky to predict about it. "All the same I believe that this apparent formlessness and pragmatism about the Commonwealth is more apparent than real."

George Drew, Canadian High Commissioner in London, and chairman of the meeting, said that "in the lifetime of our children Canada will become one of the greatest nations in the world." He predicted a population of 40,000,000 by 1980, when the value of the country's trade would be "over \$100,000,000,000."



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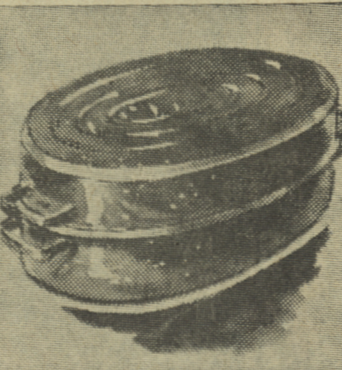
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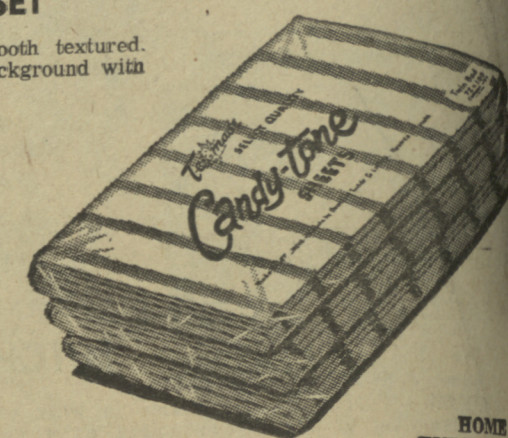
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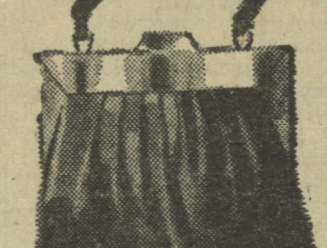
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