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**OTTAWA LETTER**  
 by  
**"Jack" Smith, M.P.**  
 North York

Prime Minister King left this week for Paris, where he will attend the Peace Conference. He was accompanied by Honourable Brooke Claxton and several top-ranking officials from the Department of External Affairs. This conference will consider terms of peace with Italy, Roumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland, and while it was hoped it would be a conference for drafting terms with all nations, it is at least a start and an encouraging sign. Here, in Canada, it is felt that we cannot start too soon on the big task of rebuilding the war-torn world. In announcing the conference, the Prime Minister said:

The Paris conference is not to be confused with the peace conference to determine the final settlement with respect to Germany. While the Paris conference is of importance in what it may accomplish in creating a more peaceful atmosphere in Europe, it will be concerned neither with the treaties of peace with the major enemy countries, Germany and Japan, nor with international problems as a whole, such as are the concern of the United Nations. The plans for a conference respecting Germany and the date on which it may be held have still to be determined. It is not possible at the moment even to suggest a probable date. Nor, as I have said, will the conference which meets in Paris on the 29th instant be concerned, directly or indirectly, with the conference which presumably will be held ere long with respect to Japan and Pacific questions.

"Although this is still one world, and its peace is indivisible, it is apparent that some countries are much more closely and directly concerned than others with the specific solutions of questions of territorial boundaries, population transfers, war damage, indemnities, and so on. Such will be the class or kind of subject to be discussed at the forthcoming Paris conference. They obviously are of primary interest to the European countries. In these circumstances, Canada's principal interest and duty will, it seems to me, lie in helping the countries more directly concerned to work out agreed solutions which are fair, and will be likely to endure. Our national interest is to see that, as far as possible, the peace treaties are based upon broad and enduring principles of justice and equity. Canada is not seeking territory or reparations, but we do want a lasting peace."

Finance Minister Isley will represent Canada at the UNRRA meeting in Geneva, which opens August 5th. During the absence of Mr. King and Mr. Isley, the Minister of Justice, Honourable L. S. St. Laurent, will be Acting Prime Minister, and Honourable D. C. Abbott will be Acting Minister of Finance.

It has not been an eventful week in Parliament as much of it was taken up in budget debate. Some criticism was forthcoming from opposition parties but much of it was inconsistent and little was definite or constructive. Opposition Members deplored the fact that income tax reductions were not greater and, in the next half hour, advocated policies which would mean increased expenditures. Criticism that expenditures should be reduced seldom was followed up by direct reference as to just where and when it could be done. One exception might be that directed at the Civil Service. Members of government and opposition, I think, agree that there must be a substantial reduction in Civil Service Personnel. I am confident same will be forthcoming this year. Anyway, the budget carried by a substantial majority and, when all the shouting died away, there was pretty general

agreement that, despite all that may be said in political debate, Canada is in pretty good shape, and is without doubt, the best place in all the world in which to live today.

In comparison to some of the gloomy things said about Canada, and in the face of the many pressing problems which beset us, it is interesting and heartening to keep in mind a few points brought out in the budget debate by Honourable Brooke Claxton, Minister of Health. Mr. Claxton pointed out that:

The production of peace-time goods in Canada is at an all-time high.

We are employing 629,000 more people than in 1939, more people than ever before in peace time.

The Canadian farmers and wage-earners are getting more money than ever before in peace time.

We have today the highest production, the highest employment and the highest national income we ever had in Canada in peace time.

The savings of individual Canadians have tripled since 1939 and are at an all-time high. On the other side, debts shown by thirty lending companies alone have been reduced from \$169 million to \$66 million between the years 1937 and 1945, and it is estimated that during the last six years the total farm debt has been reduced by something over \$400 million.

The ratio of net debt charges to the national income has increased since 1938 less than in the United States or in the United Kingdom. I think this is one of the most objective and important evidences of the excellent way in which the economy has been managed.

The rates of cuts in taxes from their war-time high are greater in Canada than in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia or New Zealand.

Tax exemptions in Canada are higher for both single and married taxpayers than in the countries where they have labour governments, higher than in the United Kingdom, higher than in Australia, even after the cut announced Friday, or in New Zealand; they are also higher than in the United States, and with the further exemptions which will be made effective from January 1, 1947, they will be very much higher than in those countries.

Prices have been more effectively controlled than in any country.

"Canadian money is as strong as that of any country which fought in the war."

The Canadian government has fewer civil servants per capita than the governments of either the United Kingdom or the United States.

Repatriation and demobilization have proceeded expeditiously and smoothly, more rapidly, more smoothly and more successfully than, I believe, any one in Canada ever anticipated would be possible.

Canada's veterans' legislation leads the world.

Canada's work in international co-operation has given her a reputation second to no country in the field.

Never before has Canada's reputation for sound progressive government and for successful management of her economy stood so high among other nations.

North York housewives will be able to buy much more canned salmon next year. Honourable H. F. G. Bridges, Minister of Fisheries, announced this week in the House that:

Under plans which have now been worked out for the allocation of Canada's 1946 production of canned fish, 600,000 cases of British Columbia canned salmon, or 24,000,000 pounds, will be made available to Canadian consumers from this year's pack. This is an increase of 200,000 cases, or sixty-six and two-thirds per cent, over the domestic

allocation from the 1945 salmon pack. In making this increase in domestic allocation, Canada has the concurrence of the international emergency food council, which has taken the place of the combined food board.

It will be recalled that during the war years, Canada sent nearly all its canned salmon overseas to help meet the critical food needs there. This year, however, it will be possible to take care of a much greater part of the domestic demand. Normal domestic demand runs to something more than half a million cases a year, but this quantity will at least be fairly well up to the usual requirements, and, as I have said, it is a much larger supply than has been available to Canadian consumers in any recent year.

Perhaps I should add a reminder that naturally it will be some months yet before this year's domestic allocation flows to market in volume and reaches the merchants' shelves. While salmon canning is now under way on the Pacific coast, it is in midsummer and on into the autumn that the big production takes place.

The session drags on despite efforts to speed up the business of the House. Morning sessions are now being held, but at best, it looks now as if we will be in Ottawa until mid-August.

**Discusses Sewerage**  
 (Continued from Page 1)

what similar to that for water works. This new method is known as sewer rental, although a more correct name would be sewage rate, and it would bear the same relationship as water rates do to the operation of water works plants. This legislation enables the municipal council to make a charge for the treatment of the sewage or for payment of debt costs in much the same way as they would apply water rates. This practice is to be followed in a considerable number of Ontario centres in the next few years.

There are many ways in which the charge for sewer rental may be levied, but one of the more common ones is to put this on the water bill as a separate charge for treatment of the liquid that has come from the premises. It may be any portion of the total water bill, a common figure being one-half of that amount or whatever is required in order to raise funds for the treatment of the sewage. The procedure is thus a very simple one. If the water bill for a house is \$10 a year, it may be decided to apply a sewer rental of say 50 percent of this. This amount would be shown on the water bill, and would be paid in instalments as the water account becomes due. The amount of money raised in this way is deducted from the amount which has to be raised out of the general tax rate.

The use of sewer rental has a number of advantages, the chief of which is that it is a more equitable way of financing sewerage works than the older method of applying the whole amount to the general assessment. This is especially so where sewerage treatment plants are in use. The amount may be varied from year to year, and it may be levied as a proportion of the water bill or in any other way which the municipality so desires.

**Three Procedures**

This method of financing makes it possible to use any one or all of three procedures, namely general assessment, local improvement, and sewer rental. Local improvement, of course, would not apply to the sewage treatment itself and where treatment is being considered it means that only two methods are available, one being to put the amount on the general taxation, and the other to raise a certain amount by sewer rental. A good arrangement is to raise a portion of the amount by sewer rental and the remainder to go on the general taxes. In this way, everyone in the corporation pays something for the treatment of the sewage, and the one who uses the sewer and produces the most sewage would naturally pay the largest amount. The fact that sewer rental may be paid a number of times a year makes the burden less troublesome, especially for the small home owner.

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