

Senate of Our said Dominion, at all times whensoever and wheresoever Our Parliament may be in Our said Dominion convoked and holden; and this you are in no wise to omit.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.

Witness: Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved John, Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, a Member of Our Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Member of Our Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Our Dominion of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, in Our Dominion of Canada, this twentieth day of January, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight and in the second year of Our Reign.

By Command,

FERNAND RINFRET,  
*Secretary of State of Canada.*

Ordered, That the same be placed upon the Journals.

The Honourable Senator Lambert came to the Table and took and subscribed the Oath prescribed by law, which was administered by the Clerk of the Senate, the Commissioner appointed for that purpose, and took his seat as a Member of the Senate.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that the Honourable Senator Lambert had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required of him by *The British North America Act, 1867*, in the presence of the Clerk of the Senate, the Commissioner appointed to receive and witness the same.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After a while, His Excellency the Governor General having come, and being seated on the Throne,—

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that,—

It is His Excellency the Governor General's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the third Session of the eighteenth Parliament by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

It affords me much pleasure to greet you upon the resumption of your Parliamentary duties.

The interval which has elapsed since the last Session witnessed the Coronation, in the month of May, of Their Majesties King George the Sixth and Queen

---

Elizabeth. The event was one of special significance to the nations of the British Commonwealth. In the Coronation service and ceremonial, recognition was given to the relationship between the Sovereign and his peoples in the several Dominions, as embodied in the Statute of Westminster.

Members of the Government participated in the deliberations of the Imperial Conference which followed immediately after the Coronation. The Summary of Proceedings of the Conference will be placed before you at an early date for your consideration. It is the belief of the Government that the opportunities afforded for the exchange of views and information on questions of common interest and concern, will serve to further the well-being of all parts of the Commonwealth.

It is gratifying to note that, during the past year, there has been a further substantial advance in Canada's economic recovery. Revenues have reached new levels. Trade with other countries has materially expanded. There has been a general increase in employment and marked decrease in the numbers receiving unemployment aid.

The recurrence, in a more acute form, of drought conditions in certain areas of Western Canada has unfortunately made it necessary to provide assistance on an unprecedented scale. The Government intends to continue its activities under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act.

In view of the success which has attended efforts to assist in the training of unemployed young people, it is proposed to extend the scheme during the coming year.

The Department of Agriculture has been reorganized and its services consolidated along lines designed to improve the Standard and acceptability of Canadian farm products.

Arrangements are being completed for the inauguration of a national trans-Canada air service.

The National Employment Commission, the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into conditions in the Textile Industry, and the Commission appointed under the provisions of the Veterans' Assistance Commission Act, 1936, have concluded their duties. The reports of these Commissions will be tabled in due course.

The strains and stresses, which economic and social developments since Confederation have placed upon Canada's governmental structure, have disclosed the necessity for adjustments which will enable it the more effectively to serve provincial and national needs, and to promote and preserve Canadian unity. My Ministers are of the opinion that, with exact and adequate information, it should be possible for the appropriate authorities to work out satisfactory solutions. As a first step towards this end, a Royal Commission of Inquiry has been appointed to re-examine the economic and financial basis of Confederation and the distribution of legislative powers in the light of the new conditions which have arisen in the past seventy years. The Commission has already held sittings in many parts of the Dominion.

The co-operation of the Provinces has been sought with a view to an amendment of the British North America Act, which would empower the Parliament of Canada to enact forthwith a national scheme of unemployment insurance. My Ministers hope the proposal may meet with early approval, in order that unemployment insurance legislation may be enacted during the present session of Parliament.

Members of the House of Commons will be invited to consider the report of the Special Committee on Elections and Franchise Acts, and you will be asked to enact such legislation as may be necessary to implement such of the Committee's recommendations as meet with their approval.

A measure will be submitted to extend the authority of the Board of Railway Commissioners.

Legislation will be introduced with a view to furthering the principle of Parliamentary control of the export of electrical power.

The international situation generally continues to give much ground for anxiety. My Ministers have endeavoured, as opportunity has afforded, to promote international understanding and good-will. They have sought to join the efforts of Canada to those of other countries which are seeking by co-operation and conciliation to effect a settlement of questions and issues which concern the world's peace.

The Administration has followed with deep interest the course of the negotiations being conducted with a view to the conclusion of a trade agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States of America. My Ministers are fully alive to the importance of these negotiations, and to Canada's interest in their outcome.

In August last, the Canadian Government approached the Government of the United States with a view to extending and revising the trade agreement concluded between them in 1935. Exploratory conversations followed which have resulted in efforts to effect a new agreement on a broad and comprehensive basis. It is hoped that negotiations may so progress as to render it possible to submit the new agreement to Parliament, for its consideration, during the present Session.

With a number of other countries, adjustments have been made, during the past year, in our commercial relations in order to facilitate a wider exchange of commodities.

The Government is convinced that, in seeking to co-operate with the United Kingdom and other countries in efforts to promote international trade, it is pursuing one of the most effective means of ensuring economic security and progress in Canada, and the betterment of conditions in other parts of the world.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

The Public Accounts of the last fiscal year and the Estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

In inviting your careful consideration of the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator Dandurand presented to the Senate a Bill intitled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read the first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General had been left in his hands.

The same was read by The Honourable the Speaker.

On motion, it was—

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Wednesday, next.