

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After a while, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada 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 Administrator's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

Their Speaker, the Honourable James Allison Glen, said:—

May it please Your Excellency,—

The House of Commons has elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable interpretation.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate answered:—

Mr. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Administrator to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to His Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable, occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Excellency the Administrator was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

You have been summoned to the first session of a new Parliament at a time of the greatest conflict in the history of mankind. Upon the outcome of the struggle will depend the maintenance of civilized society and the inheritance of human freedom for our own and future generations.

Since Parliament last met, the nature of the conflict, the character of the enemy, and the perils which menace all free nations, have become only too clear. In that short space of time, the world has seen the peaceful and peace-loving peoples of Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg made the victims of the treachery and barbarism which have marked the successive outrages of Nazi Germany. It has also witnessed the invasion of Finland, and, despite the epic resistance of its heroic population, the partition of that unoffending country. At any time, the lust of conquest may vastly enlarge

the theatre of war. These tragic events have but served to intensify our determination to share in the war effort of the allied powers to the utmost of our strength. In this resolution the Government has been fortified by the direct and unquestioned mandate of the Canadian people.

The organization and prosecution of Canada's war effort have commanded the unremitting attention of My Ministers. The constant consultation and complete co-operation maintained with the governments of the United Kingdom and France have been materially strengthened by the recent visit to those countries of My Minister of National Defence.

You will be fully informed of Canada's action both in the military and economic fields. You will be asked to consider measures deemed essential for the prosecution of the war, and for the social and economic requirements of the country.

While the present session of Parliament will necessarily be mainly concerned with Canada's war effort, and the measures essential to the achievement of ultimate victory, My Ministers are of opinion that, despite what to-day is being witnessed of concentrated warfare, it is desirable, as far as may be possible, to plan for the days that will follow the cessation of hostilities.

As a contribution to industrial stability in time of war, and to social security and justice in time of peace, resolutions will be introduced for an amendment to the British North America Act which would empower the Parliament of Canada to enact at the present session legislation to establish unemployment insurance on a national scale.

The report of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, which has just been received, will be tabled immediately.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

You will be asked to make financial provision for expenditure necessitated by the existing state of war.

The estimates for the current fiscal year will be submitted to you without delay.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

Since the last session of Parliament, a much beloved Governor General has passed from our midst. In the death of Lord Tweedsmuir, Canada mourns one whose character and achievements had endeared him to our people; the British Commonwealth has lost a wise and understanding counsellor, and the fellowship of writers a gifted interpreter of the graces and humanities of English literature. I join with you in the expression to Lady Tweedsmuir and the members of her family of the deep sympathy of the Canadian people.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint the Earl of Athlone as His Representative in succession to the late Lord Tweedsmuir. The sense of duty and the public services which have distinguished the lives of the Governor General designate and the Princess Alice ensure for His Excellency and Her Royal Highness an eager and cordial welcome to Canada.

As you assume, in these dark and difficult days, the grave responsibilities with which you have been entrusted by the Canadian people, may your resolution be sustained by the knowledge that it is the liberties of all free peoples that you are helping to preserve. Unless the evil powers, which threaten the very existence of freedom, are vanquished, the world itself will inevitably be reduced to a state of international anarchy.

I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Administrator was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator Dandurand presented to the Senate a Bill intituled: "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 Administrator 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 Administrator be taken into consideration on Tuesday, next.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Senator Dandurand, it was—

Ordered, That all the Senators present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Senator Dandurand, it was—

Ordered, That pursuant to Rule 77 the following Senators, to wit: The Honourable Senators Beaubien, Buchanan, Copp, Haig, Horsey, Meighen, Tanner, White, and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present Session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the Senators so nominated.

The Honourable Senator Dandurand laid on the Table—

Report of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, together with letters from the Honourable the Prime Minister to the Premiers of the various provinces.

Copies of Proclamations and Orders in Council passed under the authority of The War Measures Act, Volume 1, covering the period from the 25th August, 1939 to 31st December, 1939, in printed form. (English and French editions.)

Copies of Orders in Council passed under the authority of The War Measures Act from the 1st January, 1940 to 11th May, 1940, in typewritten form.

Report of the Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Report of the Canadian Wheat Board for the Crop year 1938-1939.

Report of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada for the year 1939.

Report of the Department of Trade and Commerce for the fiscal year ended 31st March, 1939. (English and French editions.)

Copy of Order in Council P.C. 1285, dated 3rd April, 1940—new regulation with respect to the exportation of electrical power. (Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act.)