

PRAYERS.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General, as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA

OTTAWA, 4th March, 1946.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the Main Entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3 p.m. on Thursday the 14th March, 1946, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Second Session of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. L. C. PEREIRA,

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate,
Ottawa.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table.

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 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:

It is just over six months since Canada emerged from six long years of war. The turmoil which has followed in the wake of war has created new problems for governments in all parts of the globe. The world is full of unrest. Hunger, privation and suffering, have become the lot of millions. Other millions are homeless, many of them in exile. The problems which face the statesmen of every nation are formidable indeed.

It is only in the light of the world situation that all our problems can be seen in true perspective. The future of our own and of every country depends upon success in the task of world reconstruction, and the establishment of an enduring peace. Many of the measures you will be called upon to consider at the present session will be concerned with this wider aspect of human affairs.

Of world problems demanding immediate action, the most pressing is the provision of food to those peoples facing acute shortage, and, in some regions, widespread famine. The chance of a peaceful reconstruction of the world depends on food. The shortage at the present time is very great. The problem, moreover, is not only for the next few months, but also for the next few years. Unless the need is met, grave disorders, endangering peace itself, must be anticipated.

The government is seeking by all practicable means to make available for export the maximum supply of foodstuffs. Every encouragement is being given to increasing production. The gravity of the situation demands, on the part of the people of Canada, a united and wholehearted effort.

The maintenance of a high level of employment and national income is a fundamental aim of government policy. Employment and income alike are bound up with the restoration and expansion of world trade. To the productive employment of vast numbers of Canadians, export markets are essential.

The government has steadily pursued its efforts to restore former markets, to secure new markets and generally to expand peace-time exports. In pursuit of this policy, export credits, for which additional provision was made at the last session, have been extended to several of our wartime allies.

At this session you will be asked to approve an agreement, recently concluded, for a loan to the United Kingdom which will help maintain the British market for Canadian food products and other exports. The agreement will also contribute to the steady development of trade between the two countries, the removal of trade barriers and the free use of currencies for international trade.

While Canada, in common with all countries, continues to experience dislocations inevitable in a period of transition from war to peace, in no other country has the transition proceeded more speedily or with less friction.

Conversion of war industries to civilian production is progressing steadily, with a minimum of industrial strife, and increased co-operation between labour and management.

Wartime restrictions and controls are being removed as rapidly as conditions will permit. Price ceilings on many articles have been suspended. Wage and salary controls have been relaxed. Certain subsidies have been discontinued. Only such controls are being continued as are deemed necessary to prevent inflation and to safeguard the public welfare.

Except for the forces still employed in connection with the occupation of Germany, practically all of our armed forces are now home. Demobilization of both men and women is taking place rapidly. Every effort is being made to ensure the orderly re-establishment of veterans in civil life.

To complete consideration of the "Veterans Charter" you will be asked to reconstitute the Special Committee on Veterans Affairs.

You will also be asked to make provision for the permanent armed forces, to the composition of which much consideration has been given.

In our own as in other countries the demand for housing continues greatly to exceed the supply. Despite shortages of materials and labour, a very large number of houses have been constructed since V-E Day. Special efforts are being made to expand the supply of building materials to meet the demand for permanent housing, and, meanwhile, to provide emergency shelter. The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been established. Its activities are being closely co-ordinated with those of Wartime Housing Limited and the Veterans Land Act Administration, with a view to having all matters relating to the construction of housing brought, as largely as possible, under the administration of one Minister of the Crown.

You will be asked to make provision for the redistribution of representation in the House of Commons.

Among other measures to which your attention will be invited will be bills to revise and clarify the definition of Canadian citizenship, and to bring the legislation respecting national status, naturalization and immigration into conformity with the definition of citizenship; bills to place in statutory form a number of orders in council to which it is desired to give permanent legislative effect; also a number of amendments to existing statutes.

Since the close of the last session, the initial meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations has been held in London. The Assembly will conclude its first session in New York in September. The Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Atomic Energy, and the International Court of Justice have been established. Our country was represented at the General Assembly by a delegation including Ministers of the Crown, other Members of Parliament, and leading officials of the Public Service. Canada was elected to the Economic and Social Council and to the Commission on Atomic Energy. A distinguished Canadian was elected a Judge of the International Court.

It is the policy of my Ministers to see that the utmost support is given by Canada to the United Nations Organization.

The problems of peace-making are exacting and arduous.

Germany and Japan continue to be under Allied Military Control. Early in the year, a Canadian Mission was established in Berlin to safeguard Canadian interests in Germany. Canada's interests in Japan are being watched through Canadian membership on the Far Eastern Commission, which recently visited Tokyo. The Commission has its headquarters in Washington.

Time will be required for the drafting of the treaties of peace. A conference is to be held in Paris later in the year to consider proposed treaties with Italy, Finland, Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria. Canada will be represented at this conference.

A meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Dominion-Provincial Conference was held in January. Progress was made in the consideration of proposals submitted by the Dominion and Provincial Governments. The Committee will meet again on April 25.

As a result of the Conference, there may be further legislative proposals.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make financial provision for all essential services, and for credits required to maintain export trade and a high level of employment and national income.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

My term of office is now almost at an end. You have already been informed of the appointment of Field Marshal Viscount Alexander of Tunis as my successor. Lord Alexander will arrive in Canada early in April. As this is the last occasion on which I shall have the honour to address you, may I be allowed to strike a personal note.

In 1914 I was unable to succeed His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in the position of Governor General, for the simple reason that I was at that time a serving soldier. The disappointment I had sustained was, however, more than compensated for by my reappointment in 1940, strange to say, during another world war. It was for me a great honour to have been chosen. The intimate association with my Prime Minister, Ministers, Parliament and the people of this great country has brought you all very close to the hearts of Princess Alice and myself.

The years we have been in Canada have been the most eventful years in world history. It has been with profound admiration that we have witnessed the great part Canada has had in the preservation of world freedom, in the relief of suffering peoples, and in helping to lay the foundations of a new world order.

Princess Alice and I will ever recall that in these momentous years it has been our proud privilege to share in your anxieties and rejoicings. Throughout our lives we shall cherish an abiding affection for Canada and her people.

May Divine Providence continue to bless this nation, and to guide the Parliament of Canada in all its deliberations.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator Copp, for the Honourable Senator Robertson, 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 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 Tuesday, next.