

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, 20th November, 1947.

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 Friday the 5th December, 1947, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Fourth Session of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. F. G. LETSON,
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:

Conditions throughout the world continue to be difficult and disturbing. The dislocations resulting from the ravages of war have become increasingly apparent. In Europe production has made only a partial recovery. In Asia, over large areas, active fighting continues. Shortages of the necessities of life, particularly of food, are still acute. In many countries, political and social unrest is serious. Failure to agree on peace settlements with Germany and Austria is preventing the recovery of Europe.

Canada was recently represented at a meeting of the nations of the Commonwealth in Canberra. Problems related to the peace settlement in the Pacific were discussed in an exploratory manner. The Government has welcomed the initiative of the United States in proposing an early conference on the Peace Treaty with Japan.

The Canadian delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations took an active part in its proceedings. Canada was elected to a seat on the Security Council. Canada was also represented on the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. Support of the Charter of the United Nations remains an essential feature of Canada's foreign policy.

While unsettled conditions still prevail in Europe and Asia, Canada has continued to enjoy general prosperity. Employment and national income have reached levels never before attained. Our country has not been unaffected, however, by the problems and difficulties of other countries. Many nations with which we trade have been unable to restore their full productive capacity. Their consequent inability to increase their exports in sufficient measure to pay for their imports has greatly complicated Canada's foreign exchange position.

A permanent solution of our exchange problems and the future well-being of the nation depend upon the revival of world trade. An important step forward in this direction has been the successful conclusion of the recent discussions at Geneva. A positive achievement was the conclusion of trade agreements with eighteen other nations. You will be asked to approve these agreements. Canada is now represented at the United Nations Trade Conference in Havana, which it is hoped will result in the establishment of an International Trade Organization along lines agreed to at Geneva. The trade agreements and the establishment of an International Trade Organization will provide a sound foundation for the expansion of world commerce, production and employment.

Provision of a temporary character has been made to conserve and supplement Canada's reserves of United States dollars. The measures recently announced to deal with the various aspects of the immediate foreign exchange difficulty will be submitted for your approval.

The present shortage of United States dollars will necessarily limit Canada's capacity to render further economic assistance to other countries. Canada, nevertheless, remains one of the few great producing countries with capacities unimpaired by the war. It is deeply gratifying that our country has been able to play so large a role in rendering assistance to war-devastated lands. In proportion to population, Canada's record has not been equalled by any other country. In the effort to further the great task of world recovery, Canada will continue, so far as is possible, to apply the principle of mutual assistance. Further assistance must, however, take into account the exchange difficulties which have arisen.

My Government has progressively removed the controls made necessary by war. To meet a continuing need for some controls, you will be asked to approve an address praying that certain orders and regulations covered by the Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947, which will terminate on December 31, be continued in force for a further period.

Due to the gradual and orderly procedure that has been followed in the removal of controls, such increases in prices as have occurred have been less than would otherwise have been the case. My Ministers are concerned with increases in prices which have added to the cost of living. In certain instances,

increases were felt to have been unjustified and price ceilings have been restored. Officials in the departments of government most immediately concerned have been directed to keep under constant supervision conditions of production and supply which tend to raise the level of consumer prices.

The demand for the products of our primary industries generally continues to remain at high levels. In view of the price fixed for the 1948-1949 crop year under the Wheat Agreement with the United Kingdom, you will be asked to consider a measure to provide for an increase in the initial payment to producers.

Despite the continuing scarcity of certain supplies and high building costs, a greater number of houses are being completed this year than in any previous year. You will be asked to consider plans for a low rental housing project for veterans.

A measure similar to the one introduced at the last session of Parliament to provide more effective machinery for the adjustment of differences between employers and employees will be submitted for your consideration.

The demobilization of the wartime forces of Canada was concluded in September. Steps are being continued to co-ordinate the organization and administration of the three armed services. A measure to consolidate all statutes relative to defence will be laid before you.

The Fisheries Prices Support Board, the Dominion Coal Board, and the Maritime Commission authorized by legislation have been duly constituted.

Measures to which your attention will be directed include Bills to revise the Income Tax Law, the Dominion Elections Act and the Canada Shipping Act. Bills relating to veterans will also be brought before you.

It is the intention of the Government to recommend the reappointment of the Select Joint Committees on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and on the revision of the Indian Act.

Lengthy discussions between a delegation from the National Convention of Newfoundland and a Committee of Members of the Government have been held to explore the possibility of finding a mutually acceptable basis for the union of Newfoundland with Canada. The Government has announced terms which it believes to be a fair and equitable basis for union should the people of Newfoundland desire to enter into Confederation.

The marriage of Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth has been the occasion of widespread rejoicing. To Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth and to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, the people of Canada extend all good wishes for their future happiness.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be laid before you.

You will be asked to make financial provision for all essential services.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

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.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Senator Copp; for the Honourable Senator Robertson, 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.

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate the Report of the Librarians of Parliament.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows:—

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIANS, 4TH SESSION, 20TH PARLIAMENT, 1947

To the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate,

The Joint Librarians of Parliament have the honour to report as follows for the year 1947:

The Supplementary Catalogue of books donated, purchased, deposited under the Copyright Act, and obtained through inter-governmental exchange of documents, during 1947, is in course of printing and will be distributed as soon as complete.

Implementing the recommendations of the Joint Committee of both Houses on the Library of Parliament made last year, the following steps have been taken:

(1) Installation of the new heating and ventilating system is almost complete, and the redecoration of the interior of the library is now in progress.