
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, 14th January, 1944.

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 27th January, 1944, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Fifth Session of the Nineteenth Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. S. REDFERN,

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:

The war is now in its fifth year. The coming months will witness decisive battles. They will demand a supreme effort on the part of all nations united in the cause of freedom.

It is true that the military situation is better than it was a year ago, and that co-operation among the United Nations is closer than at any time in the past. At Washington, at Quebec, at Moscow, at Cairo and at Teheran, military plans for the coming campaigns were fully co-ordinated. Foundations were also laid for a united approach to the problems of transition from war to peace. The improved military situation does not, however, necessarily mean an early end of the war. Hostilities may continue for a long time in Europe, as well as in the Far East. The German army is still very strong. There are no indications of any general deterioration of German resistance. Germany herself is protected by a vast outwork of conquered territory. She has been fortifying herself against invasion since the beginning of the war. Until the German army has been defeated, the Allied nations cannot count upon an assured victory in Europe. Until the Allied naval forces have grappled successfully with the main Japanese fleet there can be no assurance of an end to the war against Japan. Future operations will involve bitter fighting and heavy losses.

The winning of the war clearly remains the first of all objectives. My ministers believe it is their duty to see that Canada's war effort is firmly maintained until the enemy is defeated in Europe and in Asia. They believe the government's primary task, and the primary duty of the Canadian people, is to concentrate on the prosecution of the war. Our fighting men must be assured that there will be no diversion from this vital task and no relaxation of Canada's war effort. Till the war is won, the policies of my government will continue to be shaped to that end.

Our armed forces at sea, on land and in the air have added lustre to the name of Canada. The armed might of the United Nations has been strengthened by Canadian mutual aid. In the combined Allied assault upon the Nazi fortress, all branches of the armed forces will have still heavier responsibilities.

While giving to the needs of the war precedence over all else, my Ministers are resolved that, so far as the future can be foreseen, Canada will be in a position to meet the difficult situations which will have to be faced when victory is won.

As occupied countries are liberated from the enemy, it will be necessary to provide for the relief of destitute populations, and for the rehabilitation of devastated areas in those countries which have borne the brunt of the terror and destruction of war. A measure to extend the principle of mutual aid so as to provide for relief, as well as for materials of war, will be submitted for your approval.

Canada's prosperity and the well-being of her people are bound up with the restoration and expansion of world trade. Export markets are essential to the efficient employment of vast numbers of Canadians. Larger imports are needed to raise the standard of living. In accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter, the arrangements required to clear the channels of trade and promote the flow of goods among all nations after the war are being explored with other countries. Discussions will be advanced as rapidly as the exigencies of war will permit.

The revival of world trade and prosperity after the war will depend upon the speedy recovery of the occupied countries. During the period of transition, the provision of international relief will help to maintain full employment of Canadian manpower and resources.

My Ministers believe that the time has come when all the nations now united in the common purpose of winning the war should seek unitedly to ensure an enduring peace. The dangers of future aggression can be removed, and world security attained, only by a general international organization of peace-loving nations. You will accordingly be invited to approve of Canadian participation in the establishment of an international organization to further national security through international co-operation.

While the post-war objective of our external policy is world security and general prosperity, the post-war objective of our domestic policy is social security and human welfare.

In the opinion of my Ministers plans for the establishment of a national minimum of social security and human welfare should be advanced as rapidly as possible. Such a national minimum contemplates useful employment for all who are willing to work; standards of nutrition and housing adequate to ensure the health of the whole population; and social insurance against privation resulting from unemployment, from accident, from the death of the breadwinner, from ill-health and from old age.

Post-war planning falls naturally into three broad fields: preparation for the demobilization, rehabilitation and re-establishment in civil life of the men and women in the armed forces; the reconversion of the economic life of the nation from a war-time to a peace-time basis, and its reconstruction in a manner which will provide opportunities for useful employment for all who are willing and able to work; and the provision of insurance against major economic and social hazards.

A broad program has already been developed for the re-establishment of veterans of the present war, and for the care of disabled veterans and the dependents of our fighting men and merchant seamen. You will be asked to approve a measure to provide war service gratuities for all who have served in the armed forces, and also measures to supplement the existing rehabilitation program.

The maintenance of full employment will require, in the period of transition from war to peace, a rapid and efficient conversion of war industries, the enlargement of markets at home and abroad, intensified research into new uses of our natural resources, programs of national and regional development, including housing and community planning.

Suitable peace-time uses for war plants are being sought, and plans are being made for their speedy conversion. To assist in the conversion of war plants and in the development of small and medium-scale industrial enterprises, the provision of additional credit facilities, for both fixed and working capital, will be required. To meet this need, your approval will be sought for the establishment of an Industrial Development Bank as a subsidiary of the Bank of Canada. Expenditures on development work, in preparation for the transition of industry from war to peace, will be encouraged by suitable tax modifications.

To assist in developing post-war export markets for primary and secondary industries, a measure will be submitted to provide for the insurance or guarantee of export credits, and steps are being taken to expand the trade commissioner service abroad.

Provision will be made to expand research activities.

A measure to amend and supplement existing housing legislation will be introduced.

A considerable measure of social security is already provided under federal and provincial legislation, but the working out of a comprehensive national scheme, in which federal and provincial activities will be integrated and which will include nation-wide health insurance, will require further consultation and close co-operation with the provinces. My Ministers will welcome opportunities for such consultation.

When suitable agreements are reached with the provinces, My Ministers will be prepared to recommend measures to provide for federal assistance in a nation-wide system of health insurance, and for a national scheme of contributory old age pensions on a more generous basis than that at present in operation.

The family and the home are the foundation of national life. To aid in ensuring a minimum of well-being to the children of the nation and to help gain for them a closer approach to equality of opportunity in the battle of life, you will be asked to approve a measure making provision for family allowances.

My Ministers believe that the time is rapidly approaching when a Minister of the Crown should be responsible for each of the three broad fields of post-war planning. You will accordingly be asked to approve the establishment of the following departments of government:—

(1) A Department of Veterans' Affairs to have charge of the rehabilitation and re-establishment of members of the armed forces, and the administration of veterans' pensions and allowances;

(2) A Department of Reconstruction to promote and co-ordinate planning for national development and post-war employment; and

(3) A Department of Social Welfare to organize and to assist in administering activities of the federal government in the fields of health and social insurance.

Underlying efforts for the winning of the war and the solution of post-war problems is the necessity of preventing the inflationary effects of war. My Ministers believe that to prevent inflation and to safeguard a basic standard of living it remains necessary to maintain the price ceiling and stabilization of wages and salaries.

To ensure economic stability for agriculture, you will be asked to make provision for a price floor for staple farm products.

Among other matters to which your attention will be directed will be the revision of the Bank Act, and the provision of adequate facilities for the exercise of the franchise by men and women serving in the armed forces.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make financial provision for the effective prosecution of the war and for other necessary services.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I express, I know, the thoughts of all Canada when I say with what pride and admiration we have followed the exploits of our armed forces. At sea, on land and in the air, the fighting men of Canada, wherever they have served, have displayed the highest courage, endurance and skill. I give them your assurance that their lives are more precious to their country than all else, and that it is our supreme aim to ensure their early and victorious return to their homeland.

As I invite your consideration of the very difficult problems which will engage your attention in this momentous year, 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 King 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.

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate the Report of the Librarian of Parliament for the year 1943.

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

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Report of the Librarian for 1943

To the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate:

The General Librarian of Parliament has the honour to submit to Parliament his report on the Library for the year 1943.

The Supplementary Catalogue of books donated and purchased during 1943 is in course of printing and will be distributed at an early date.

The General Librarian is grateful for many interesting donations received during the year.

Our London agents have written to us that because of the acute paper shortage in England books are being published there only in very limited editions. As the British home market has priority, many of our orders have remained unfilled. All the usual British government publications, however, have been received. As to French books, conditions are even worse, none at