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Then the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed His Excellency the Governor General, as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The Commons of Canada have voted certain Supplies required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the Public Service.

In the name of the Commons, I present to Your Excellency the following Bills:—

“An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1918.”

“An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service, of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1918.”

To which Bills I humbly request Your Excellency's assent.

To these Bills the Clerk of the Senate, by command of His Excellency the Governor General, did thereupon say:—

“In His Majesty's name, His Excellency the Governor General thanks His Loyal Subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to these Bills.”

After which His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the Seventh Session of the Twelfth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, with the following Speech:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

Important measures for the effective prosecution of the war have engaged your close attention during a long session, and I am now happy to release you from further attendance.

Since your labours began, the high and worthy character of our cause has been confirmed by two significant events. Our allies, the Russian people, are engaged under trying circumstances, in establishing institutions which shall fully conform to their ideals of liberty and order. In the midst of inevitable difficulties, which command our sympathy, they have affirmed their determination to remain faithful to the Alliance.

The United States of America, refusing to tolerate the arrogance and menace of Prussian Militarism, have made common cause with the Allies and are vigorously co-operating in the struggle for freedom and humanity. Already the Canadian people have given many expressions of the warm welcome with which they greet their great kindred neighbour as a comrade in arms.

The meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet and Imperial War Conference in the early part of the year have very materially facilitated the thorough co-operation of the Dominion, both in the prosecution of the war and in preparation for the future. They constitute also an important step in the development of constitutional relationships between the nations of the British Commonwealth.

Notwithstanding the increasing military strength of the allied nations, the stubborn resistance of the enemy in all important theatres of the war demonstrates the need of throwing our utmost effort into the struggle and thus hastening the day of abiding peace. In the western theatre the Canadian Army Corps, by its capture of the coveted Vimy Ridge and by its recent operations at Lens, has sustained its distinguished record and contributed in important measure to the ascendancy which the Allies have gained in that theatre.

In order to secure the reinforcements essential for the support of our forces further steps have become necessary, and the authority you have granted for compulsory military enlistment on a selective basis will meet the urgent need for reinforcements.