CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Monday, March 19, 1945

SIXTH SESSION—NINETEENTH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued on the thirty-first day of January, 1945, met this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker Hon. James Allison Glen in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And the house having returned to the Commons chamber:

NEW MEMBER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that during the recess the clerk of the house has received from the chief electoral officer a certificate of the election and return of the following member, viz:

Of Wilfred Garfield Case, Esquire, for the electoral district of Grey North.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCED

Wilfred Garfield Case, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Grey North, introduced by Mr. Gordon Graydon and Hon. R. B. Hanson.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce bill No. 1. respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

You have been called into session for the dispatch of business which it is in the national interest to conclude before the expiration of the present parliament.

Since I last addressed you, the war in Europe and in Asia has continued with relentless fury. In Europe, the Allied forces are rapidly advancing to what there is every reason to believe will be decisive victory. Canada is prouder than ever of the splendid achievements of her fighting forces, at sea, on land, and in the air.

The government has accepted the invitation to Canada to send representatives to a conference of the united nations to be held on April 25, at San Francisco, to prepare a charter for a general international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security. My ministers are of the opinion that the Canadian delegation at the San Francisco conference should be assured of the widest possible measure of support from parliament. A joint resolution of both houses will accordingly be submitted for your approval.

Members of the House of Commons:

The term of the present parliament will have expired on April 17. A general election will be held shortly thereafter. You will be asked to make the necessary financial provisions for the effective conduct of the war, and to meet the ordinary expenses of government, for the period between the end of the present fiscal year and the opening of a new parliament.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence guide your deliberations in this solemn moment in the history of the world.