

Provision has been made for pensions to blind persons who have attained the age of forty years.

Measures have been enacted to provide for the establishment of a trans-Canada air service, and for revision of the capital structure of the Canadian National Railways.

More effective provision has been made for the defence of Canada.

Measures have been enacted to prevent enlistments from this country in foreign wars, and to provide for the control of exports of munitions and war materials. The profound desire of the Canadian people to discourage resort to armed force, and to promote peace has found further expression in departmental measures to control profits in the manufacture of defence equipment and supplies.

In the opinion of my ministers, economic and social developments since confederation necessitate re-adjustments in the governmental structure of Canada. As a necessary first step, it has been decided to appoint a royal commission of inquiry to investigate the allocation of financial powers and responsibilities as between the dominion and the provinces.

The coronation of Their Majesties King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth, on May the twelfth, is an event of unprecedented significance to the nations of the British commonwealth. Arrangements are being completed for the appropriate representation of Canada at the ceremonies.

Canada will also be duly represented at the imperial conference to be held in London immediately following the coronation.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public service.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In taking leave of you at this time, I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may rest upon your labours.

This concluded the second session of the eighteenth parliament.

---