

*Governor General's Speech*

To this bill 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 this bill.

## GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

After which His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the second session of the sixteenth parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I desire to express my appreciation of the careful attention you have given to the various measures submitted for your consideration during the present session of parliament.

It is a source of special satisfaction to note that the public accounts of the fiscal year recently ended disclose a substantial surplus and that you have been able to effect a further reduction in the public debt as well as a further material reduction in taxation.

The trade of our country continues to expand. Exports of manufactured goods are being well maintained and our total exports to foreign countries show a considerable increase. It is anticipated that the volume of foreign trade will reveal a further increase as a result of the trade agreements just concluded.

I am gratified to observe that the interest and benefit of ex-service men and of their dependents has had particularly close and sympathetic attention during the session. As a result of the consideration you have given to this most important subject, an act has been passed which considerably extends and improves the provisions made for pensions in respect of disabilities and deaths connected with the war, also an act reviving the beneficial provisions of the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act, and an act affording further material relief to soldier settlers.

The amalgamation of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and the Department of Health into one department to be known as the Department of Pensions and National Health accords with a natural evolution and is a step which should serve to promote efficiency and economy in administration.

The general subject of immigration, including the work of the Department of Immigration and Colonization, has received careful study throughout the session by the committee on agriculture and colonization. After months of inquiry into the many phases, both national and international of this important and intricate problem, the committee has reported its conclusions and recommendations, and the report has been adopted.

The extensive and important recommendations of the commission recently appointed to investigate all phases of the fishing industry of

the maritime provinces, the Magdalen islands, and the coastal portion of the province of Quebec, have been met in part, and will continue to receive the attention of my advisers.

The report of the National Advisory Committee on the St. Lawrence Waterway project together with the views expressed thereon by the government of the United States in an exchange of correspondence, which was submitted to parliament at the present session, will continue to receive careful consideration. In this connection, provision has been made for referring to the courts certain questions as to federal and provincial jurisdiction with respect to navigation and water-powers.

The offer of assistance in the formation of civil flying clubs has met with a wide-spread response. Flying training has already been started by clubs both in eastern and western Canada. The construction of the airship mooring tower at St. Hubert aerodrome, near Montreal, is being pressed with energy.

The special provision made for the establishment of national research laboratories should greatly facilitate industrial research and prove an aid to the more thorough utilization of our natural resources.

The provision made by the amendments to the Federal District Commission Act, with a view to commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation, will serve materially to enhance the position of Ottawa as the capital of the Dominion.

The appointment by His Majesty's government in Great Britain of a high commissioner to represent its interests in Canada has been received with much satisfaction.

The appropriations of this session will enable steps to be taken shortly to establish Canadian legations in France and Japan. It is gratifying to know that the arrangements recently made for the further restriction of immigration from Japan, combined with the exchange of ministers between Japan and Canada, give promise of affording a satisfactory solution of this long standing question.

The Canadian government has learned with deep interest of the proposals which the Government of the United States, following extended discussions with the Government of France, has advanced for the renunciation of war, and, in accord with His Majesty's other governments, has accepted the invitation of the United States to participate in the signature of a multilateral pact directed to this end and which it is earnestly hoped will materially strengthen the cause of peace throughout the world.

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:

Abundant evidence surrounds us of the increasing prosperity of our country. For this and other blessings I join with you in humble gratitude to Divine Providence.

This concluded the second session of the sixteenth parliament.