

Governor General's Speech

WRIT ORDERED FOR ELECTION OF NEW MEMBER

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by Mr. St. Laurent:

That Fred Rose, member for Cartier, having been adjudged guilty of an indictable offence and sentenced to six years' imprisonment and not having served the punishment to which he was adjudged, has become and continues incapable of sitting or voting in this house, and it is ordered that Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out a new writ for the election of a new member to serve in the present parliament for the county of Cartier in the room of said Fred Rose adjudged and sentenced as aforesaid.

This resolution speaks for itself. I have nothing to add.

Motion agreed to.

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:

Since my arrival in Canada, I have visited all nine provinces. To-day, for the first time, I meet with you at the opening of a session of parliament. I should like at once to say how greatly I value this new association. I prize it the more in that it permits, in a time of peace, a continuance of the memorable association I had with Canada's armed forces at a time of war.

This new year has happily been marked by a lessening of international tension. During 1946, despite many disappointments, a notable advance was made towards world recovery. In the making of peace and in the tasks of world reconstruction, Canada has assumed a full share of responsibility. No country holds, today, a higher place in the esteem of other nations.

The establishment of enduring peace continues to be the first concern of all nations. It is the corner stone of our external policy.

Unsettled world conditions, following inevitably in the wake of war, have rendered the making of the peace exceedingly difficult. Some progress has been made. After prolonged conferences, treaties of peace with Italy, Finland, Roumania, Hungary and Bulgaria have been agreed upon, and are about to be signed. You will be asked to approve the treaties to which Canada becomes a signatory.

[Mr. Speaker.]

The allied nations have now entered upon the task of determining the future of Germany and Austria. Canada has recently made clear our constructive attitude with regard to these settlements.

In international action for the relief of the destitute, and for the rehabilitation of areas desolated during the war, Canada has been much to the fore. We may indeed be grateful that our country has been able to take the part it has in the relief of human suffering, in the provision of food for the hungry, and in the restoration of devastated countries. Canada is joining with other nations in seeking to solve the perplexing problem of the displaced persons, and in the development of international co-operation in many fields.

It is the policy of the government to have Canada give wholehearted support to the United Nations. Special attention is being given to the deliberations respecting atomic energy and the regulation and reduction of armaments. My ministers are also following with interest the activities of the United Nations with regard to the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the manner in which those obligations accepted by all members of United Nations may best be implemented. It is the intention of the government to recommend the appointment of a select committee of members of both houses to consider and report upon these matters.

The General Assembly of the United Nations concluded, last month in New York, its first session begun in London a year ago. Canada's delegation both in London and in New York was representative of the government and the opposition, and of both houses of parliament. The Canadian delegation took an active and constructive part in the work of the assembly, the economic and social council, the atomic energy commission and other international organizations. You will be invited to consider legislation to enable Canada to carry out our country's obligations under the United Nations charter, and to approve other agreements arising out of the growing structure of international organization.

Canada welcomed the action of the United Nations in convening a world conference on trade and employment. It is hoped that the conference may bring into being an international charter which, by the removal or reduction of restrictions, will result in the continuous expansion of world trade. During the autumn, preparatory trade discussions among the nations of the commonwealth were held in London. Discussions are being continued with other of the united nations. Canada's delegation to the conference will be instructed to further to the utmost this combined effort on the part of the united nations to liberate trade and thereby to assist in the maintenance of a high level of employment.

In our own country, the change-over from wartime conditions has proceeded rapidly. The repatriation and demobilization of the armed forces have been practically completed. Almost all dependents of veterans have now arrived in Canada. The three armed services have been brought under the jurisdiction of one minister of the crown. The navy, army and air force are being reorganized on a post-war basis.

Industry has been converted almost entirely from war-time purposes to peace-time production. Over a million persons have been transferred from the armed forces and war industry