

To ensure economic stability for agriculture, you will be asked to make provision for a price floor for staple farm products.

Among other matters to which your attention will be directed will be the revision of the Bank Act, and the provision of adequate facilities for the exercise of the franchise by men and women serving in the armed forces.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make financial provision for the effective prosecution of the war and for other necessary services.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I express, I know, the thoughts of all Canada when I say with what pride and admiration we have followed the exploits of our armed forces. At sea, on land and in the air, the fighting men of Canada, wherever they have served, have displayed the highest courage, endurance and skill. I give them your assurance that their lives are more precious to their country than all else, and that it is our supreme aim to ensure their early and victorious return to their homeland.

As I invite your consideration of the very difficult problems which will engage your attention in this momentous year, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved:

That, until the house otherwise orders, the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Friday next, and that this order have precedence over all other business, except the introduction of bills, government notices of motions and government orders, until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose standing committees of this house under standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre), Michaud, Casselman (Grenville-Dundas), MacInnis, Taylor.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources, the Honourable J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, the Honourable J. E. Michaud, Minister of Transport and the Honourable J. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce,

to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled: An Act Respecting the House of Commons.

DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Report of civil service commission respecting the appointment of Mr. John Laundry as deputy sergeant-at-arms.—Mr. Speaker.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 4.22 p.m.

Friday, January 28, 1944

The house met at three o'clock.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

TREATMENT BY JAPANESE—POSITION OF CANADIANS IN JAPAN AND JAPANESE NATIONALS IN CANADA

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, hon. members of the house will have read in the morning papers the reports officially issued by the office of war information at Washington of the suffering of those brave members of the United States forces who fell into Japanese hands at the end of a heroic resistance at Bataan and Corregidor. The evidence of Japanese brutality and organized sadism is so horrible and overwhelming as to be almost incredible.

Reports of Japanese maltreatment of prisoners of war in Malaya, Siam and Burma are not so complete, but are sufficient to indicate that there were, in those areas, similar brutalities and cruelties. In the British House of Commons this morning the Foreign Secretary told of the sufferings in those areas of British, Australian, Indian and Chinese prisoners of war. He also told the shocking story of the *Lisbon Maru*, a Japanese transport carrying United Kingdom prisoners of war from Hong Kong, which was torpedoed by an allied submarine. The Japanese held the prisoners, some of them wounded, under batted hatches, until the ship sank some thirty-six hours later. When some of the prisoners made their escape from the ship, they were fired upon in the water by the Japanese escort vessels.

In their distress at these shocking revelations I extend to the people of the United States, Britain, Australia, the Netherlands, India and China the sympathy of this house, and the sympathy of the people of Canada. We share to the full their feelings of pain and indignation.