

After which His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the Third Session of the Thirteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, with the following Speech:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In relieving you from further attendance on this Session, I thank you for the diligence and efficiency with which you have discharged your duties.

Measures of great significance and importance have engaged your attention.

The Treaty of Peace concluded by the Allied and Associated Powers with Germany and signed at Versailles on the 28th June, 1919, and the Treaty of Peace between the same Powers and the Republic of Austria, signed at St. Germain-en-Laye on the 10th September, 1919, have been presented to you and have received your approval.

These Treaties having now been approved by Germany and Austria, on the one hand, and by at least three of the Allied and Associated Powers on the other hand, await only the exchange of ratifications to enter into full force and effect.

I fervently trust that the provisions of these Treaties, marking as they do the termination of hostilities, may usher in for humanity an era in which great wars may be prevented and the blessings of world peace effectually secured.

Canada bore a large part in the operations of the war and contributed notably to its successful completion, and it is therefore gratifying to be able to note the distinguished position accorded to her in the conduct of the negotiations in the Peace Conference at Paris.

The visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Canada has been a source of deep and widespread satisfaction. The universal welcome which has been extended to him is an evidence of the devotion of the Canadian people to the Throne and to British institutions. This welcome, so whole-hearted in character, is an undoubted tribute to the high personal character and qualities of His Royal Highness, who, in peace as in war, has closely identified himself with Canada, and shown his earnest desire to promote the welfare of the people of this Dominion.

The acquisition of the Grand Trunk properties and their addition to the existing national railways will materially promote the successful and economic administration of the whole system, and greatly aid in the solution of the important problems of Canadian transport.

The adoption of the report of the Committee of the House of Commons on Bill No. 10 will extend the scope and application of the important measures already taken for meeting the needs of returned soldiers and their dependents.

The adoption of the Classification of the Civil Service of Canada will make it possible for the Commission to proceed at once with the further organization of the Service.

The success which has greeted the inauguration of the Victory Loan is a tribute to the patriotism and organizing capacity of Canadian business men, and fully demonstrates the determination and readiness of the country to fulfill its obligations to its soldiers, maintain the credit of Canada, and strengthen its trade position.

In a survey of the economic and social conditions throughout the world, it is satisfactory to note that Canada's position compares favourably with that of any other country and is far more favourable than most. With the accordant action of labour and capital, aided as it has been by the Industrial Conference lately held, and with the continued application of our people to productive pursuits, accompanied by rigid adherence to thrift and saving, we can face the coming years of reconstruction and adjustment with hopeful confidence.