

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT.

THE SENATE.

Thursday, February 20, 1919.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

NEW SENATORS INTRODUCED.

The following newly-appointed senators were severally introduced and took their seats:

Hon. Pierre Edouard Blondin, of Grand'Mère, Quebec, introduced by Hon. Sir James Loughheed and Hon. Mr. Pope.

Hon. Michael John O'Brien, of Renfrew, Ontario, introduced by Hon. Sir James Loughheed and Hon. Mr. Gordon.

Hon. John Gillanders Turriff, of Regina, Saskatchewan, introduced by Hon. Sir James Loughheed and Hon. Mr. Bostock.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

The Hon. the SPEAKER announced that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the session of the Dominion Parliament on Thursday, the 20th February, at 3 o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. The members of the Senate being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and, that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Second 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:

Since the last session of Parliament events have transpired of the highest consequence to the Empire and to Canada. After withstanding with steadfast valour repeated assaults pressed with the utmost vigour and determination, the Allied Forces, taking the offensive in all theatres of action, advanced to decisive and overwhelming victory. Upon terms of practically unconditional surrender on the part of the enemy, armistices were arranged and are now in effect, under which extensive strategic territories have been evacuated, guns, munitions and other war material and supplies surrendered on a vast scale, and the greater part of the hostile fleets delivered up to the Allies. A Conference is now being held at Paris to determine the conditions upon which peace will be concluded. As the decisions of this Conference will be of vital importance to Canada as well as to other parts of the Empire, it is being attended by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, accompanied by others of my advisers.

In the notable victories leading to the glorious issue accomplished by the arms of the Allies, none of the forces engaged bore a more valorous or heroic part than those of Canada, whose achievements throughout the entire war have won imperishable renown for their country. It is most gratifying to be able to state that, in the final and decisive stages of the mighty struggle, our divisions in the field were maintained at over-strength, and equipped in the highest degree with all the requirements of modern warfare. The appreciation and gratitude of the nation cannot be too earnestly and sincerely expressed to the gallant members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, whose sacrifices, sufferings and heroism have played so effectual a part in vindicating the cause of world-liberty and civilization.

Prior to the armistice, plans and preparations had been made for the return, demobilization and re-establishment in civil life, after the close of the war, of our soldiers with their dependents overseas. These are now in operation, and while this great undertaking presents, owing to after-war conditions, many difficulties and complications, it is confidently expected that it will be accomplished speedily and satisfactorily.

Immediately upon the conclusion of the armistice, which necessarily involved the cessation of operations in the manufacture of munitions and in other essential war industries,