

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Friday, December 5, 1947.

The Parliament of Canada having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the despatch of business:

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

Prayers.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would arrive at the Main Entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3 p.m., and, when it had been signified that all was in readiness, would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Fourth Session of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

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. 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 Fourth Session of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

Conditions throughout the world continue to be difficult and disturbing. The dislocations resulting from the ravages of war have become increasingly apparent. In Europe production has made only a partial recovery. In Asia, over large areas, active fighting continues. Shortages of the necessities of life, particularly of food, are still acute. In many countries, political and social unrest is serious. Failure to agree on peace settlements with Germany and Austria is preventing the recovery of Europe.

Canada was recently represented at a meeting of the nations of the commonwealth in Canberra. Problems related to the peace settlement in the Pacific were discussed in an explora-

tory manner. The government has welcomed the initiative of the United States in proposing an early conference on the peace treaty with Japan.

The Canadian delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations took an active part in its proceedings. Canada was elected to a seat on the Security Council. Canada was also represented on the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. Support of the charter of the United Nations remains an essential feature of Canada's foreign policy.

While unsettled conditions still prevail in Europe and Asia, Canada has continued to enjoy general prosperity. Employment and national income have reached levels never before attained. Our country has not been unaffected, however, by the problems and difficulties of other countries. Many nations with which we trade have been unable to restore their full productive capacity. Their consequent inability to increase their exports in sufficient measure to pay for their imports has greatly complicated Canada's foreign exchange position.

A permanent solution of our exchange problems and the future well-being of the nation depend upon the revival of world trade. An important step forward in this direction has been the successful conclusion of the recent discussions at Geneva. A positive achievement was the conclusion of trade agreements with eighteen other nations. You will be asked to approve these agreements. Canada is now represented at the United Nations Trade Conference in Havana, which it is hoped will result in the establishment of an international trade organization along lines agreed to at Geneva. The trade agreements and the establishment of an international trade organization will provide a sound foundation for the expansion of world commerce, production and employment.

Provision of a temporary character has been made to conserve and supplement Canada's reserves of United States dollars. The measures recently announced to deal with the various aspects of the immediate foreign exchange difficulty will be submitted for your approval.

The present shortage of United States dollars will necessarily limit Canada's capacity to render further economic assistance to other countries. Canada, nevertheless, remains one of the few great producing countries with capacities unimpaired by the war. It is deeply gratifying that our country has been able to play so large a role in rendering assistance to war-devastated lands. In proportion to population, Canada's record has not been equalled by any other country. In the effort to further the great task of world recovery, Canada will continue, so far as is possible, to apply the principle of mutual assistance. Further assistance must, however, take into account the exchange difficulties which have arisen.