

Casablanca Conference

Of Honourable Leo Richer LaFleche, for the electoral district of Outremont;

Of Stanley Howard Knowles, Esquire, for the electoral district of Winnipeg North Centre;

Of Frederic Dorion, Esquire, for the electoral district of Charlevoix-Saguenay.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

Hon. Leo Richer LaFleche, member for the electoral district of Outremont, introduced by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Hon. L. S. St. Laurent.

Stanley Howard Knowles, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Winnipeg North Centre, introduced by Mr. M. J. Coldwell and Mr. Angus MacInnis.

M. Frédéric Dorion, député de la circonscription électorale de Charlevoix-Saguenay, est présenté par M. J.-Sasseville Roy et M. Jean-François Pouliot.

CASABLANCA CONFERENCE

MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL AND PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, TOGETHER WITH CHIEFS OF STAFF, IN NORTH AFRICA

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): It is always a pleasure at the beginning of a new session of parliament, Mr. Speaker, or following the prolonged adjournment of an existing session, to have the opportunity of greeting members once more and renewing the associations of parliament. I feel that this pleasure is greatly enhanced to-day in virtue of the announcement made over the radio last night of the conference which took place at Casablanca, in North Africa, between the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States. Although the business of this session is virtually concluded, and what remains is largely formal procedure, I feel that hon. members would wish to have some mention made of the conference, that in the proceedings of the house it may be on record as having taken place within the period of this particular session.

When the session was adjourned almost six months ago the fortunes of the united nations had reached a place where it seemed that they were almost at the darkest hour since the beginning of the war. In the interval, since adjournment, the scene has changed in nearly all parts of the world. With the achievements of the British forces in Egypt and Libya; with the landing of British and American forces in North Africa, and the successes there; with the unrelaxing, heroic resistance of the Chinese, and the magnificent successes of the

[Mr. Speaker.]

Russians, and the gains in the Southwest Pacific, we now have come to a time when we may justly feel that the fortunes of war have greatly changed, that the allied and the axis powers are more evenly balanced, and that the outlook gives every reason for hope and encouragement as far as the future is concerned.

Nothing could have afforded more in the way of fresh light on the horizon than the news of the meeting which has taken place during ten recent days at Casablanca, and particularly the announcement that, as a result of the conference of the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States and the experts who accompanied them, the British and American leaders, both civil and military, have arrived at an agreement with respect to the plan of war which has been so worked out, it is hoped, as to enable the allied forces to maintain throughout this present year the initiative which they have now gained.

I shall not attempt to go into matters pertaining to the conference. During the new session there will be opportunity to discuss all matters relating to the war, and also, if it is desired, to give such information as it may be possible to make public with respect to the conference at Casablanca.

I should add, however, that one of the gratifying features of the conference, in addition to those I have mentioned already, is the further announcement that there has been a meeting between General de Gaulle and General Giraud which we hope will lay the foundations of an enduring union between the forces of the fighting French and those under General Giraud. I am sure, too, that there will be great satisfaction in the announcement that both China and Russia have received from the conference assurances of the additional aid which it is going to be possible for them to receive from the other united nations during the continuance of the war.

In a word, I am sure this House of Commons would wish it to be known that it views with the greatest possible satisfaction the conference which has taken place, both the fact that there has been such a conference and the announcement which has been made in reference to its proceedings; and that we cherish no hope more profoundly than that the plan which has been worked out may be realized in the fullest possible measure during the course of the present year.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, every lover of