

rendered necessary by the sudden outbreak of war. For some of these measures there was wanting adequate legal authority, accordingly it was decided to summon Parliament almost immediately that the several measures might receive parliamentary ratification and provision be made for other legislation rendered necessary by the war.

Among emergency measures passed by Order-in-Council and subsequently ratified by Parliament, were the establishment of a censorship over communications received from abroad or being sent out of the country; measures with regard to the detention of ships, the prohibition of the export of certain articles, and respecting persons of foreign origin resident in Canada who might belong to any of the countries with which Britain or her allies were at war. With respect to the latter, the Government declared that persons born in Germany or Austria-Hungary who had come to Canada as adopted citizens of this country, whether they had become naturalized or not, were entitled to the protection of the law in Canada, and should receive it. That they were not to be molested or interfered with unless any among them should desire to aid or abet the enemy or leave Canada for the purpose of fighting Great Britain or her allies.

Protection of Credit and Gold Supply

Fearing a sudden withdrawal of gold from the banks either for the purpose of hoarding or of export abroad, the Government on August 3rd, authorized the chartered banks of Canada to make payment in bank notes instead of in gold or Dominion notes, until further official announcement. Also having regard to the world-wide financial crisis, and in view of action taken by the Imperial Government to conserve the commercial and financial interests, the Government authorized the several chartered banks of Canada to issue, until further announcement, excess circulation to amounts not exceeding 15% of the combined unimpaired capital and rest or reserve fund of the respective banks, as stated in their respective statutory monthly returns to the Minister of Finance. When Parliament assembled, this action, in addition to being ratified, was supplemented by further legislation amending the Dominion Notes Act so as to increase the amount of notes which might be issued against a 25% margin of gold from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

PART II.

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT

IN accordance with the proclamation issued on August 4th, the Canadian Parliament assembled on the afternoon of Tuesday the 18th. The occasion was an historic one, and the proceedings of Parliament during the days it was in session were in every respect worthy of the best traditions of the two great political parties of Canada and of British Parliamentary institutions. The Session was very brief, lasting only from the afternoon of Tuesday, August 18th until the afternoon of Saturday, the 22nd. It was the first time in the history of the Dominion of Canada, that Parliament had ever been summoned on account of war, and it was recognized by the members of both Houses that it was not a time for party debate or partisan discussion but rather an occasion for united action and the speedy despatch of emergent public business.

The Speech from the Throne

The purpose of the summoning of Parliament was set forth in the speech from the Throne which was delivered by His Royal Highness, the Governor-General at the formal opening. Having summoned the members of the House of Commons to attend at the bar of the Senate, His Royal Highness addressed the two Houses in the following words:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Very grave events vitally affecting the interests of all His Majesty's dominions have transpired since prorogation. The unfortunate outbreak of war made it immediately imperative for my ministers to take extraordinary measures for the defence of Canada and for the maintenance of the honour and integrity of our empire.

With respect to such of these measures as may require the sanction and approval of Parliament, the necessary legislative proposals will be submitted for your consideration. Other Bills authorizing additional measures which are essential for the public safety will also be presented to you without delay.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Estimates will be laid before you to provide for expenditure which has been or may be caused by the outbreak of hostilities.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The critical period into which we have just entered has aroused to the full the patriotism and loyalty which have always actuated the Canadian people. From every province and indeed from every community the response to the call of duty has been all that could be desired. The spirit which thus animates Canada inspires also His Majesty's dominions throughout the world; and we may be assured that united action to repel the common danger will not fail to strengthen the ties that bind together those vast dominions in the possession and enjoyment of the blessings of British liberty.

As representative of His Majesty the King, I must add my expression of thanks and admiration for the splendid spirit of patriotism and generosity that has been displayed throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion.

The formal proceedings consequent upon the opening of Parliament being ended, both Houses adjourned until the following day at which time the customary addresses in reply to the Speech from the Throne were made. In the Commons important speeches were delivered by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition with reference to the war and its causes, and the position of Canada and Canadians in facing the gravest situation with which this country has been confronted since its existence as a British Dominion.

In the House of Commons, the address in reply to the Governor-General's speech was moved by Mr.