

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

The deputy of His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the first session of the nineteenth parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

When the present session opened in May, one free country after another, in quick succession, had become the victim of nazi aggression. Before its adjournment on August 7, Italy had joined her axis partner as an open enemy, French resistance had collapsed, and the government of France had surrendered. Britain herself was threatened with invasion. The theatre of conflict had begun to spread into other lands beyond the confines of Europe. Japan and China were still at war. Among the nations of the world, the United Kingdom and the British dominions, alone, stood in arms, in the defence of the world's freedom.

Canada has willingly accepted the widening responsibilities which events have placed upon her. The measures which you have taken have had in view the immediate task of sharing more completely in the defence of Britain and securing our own country more effectively against internal subversion and external attack. They have also had in view the long range task of ensuring the ultimate defeat of the enemy.

To serve these ends, the structure of the administration has been altered and enlarged. A Ministry of National Defence for Air and a Ministry of National Defence for Naval Services have been created. The scope of the Department of Munitions and Supply has been expanded and its organization strengthened. A

Department of National War Services has been established. The government has been empowered by the National Resources Mobilization Act to bring to the defence of Canada and the advancement of the common cause all the resources of the country, both human and material. In the different branches of war activity there has been a steady expansion and acceleration of training, transport, manufacture and production.

By the Unemployment Insurance Act you have made a valuable contribution to industrial and financial stability in time of war, and to social security and justice in time of peace. It is deeply gratifying that approval was given by all the provinces to the necessary amendment to the British North America Act to permit of the enactment of unemployment insurance by the parliament of Canada.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the financial appropriations which you have made. The determination of the Canadian people to support and advance the cause for which we have taken up arms, has been reflected in the unselfish acceptance by all of its heavy financial burdens.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

It has become only too apparent that the lust for conquest will continue to enlarge the theatre of war. The struggle to preserve freedom will be long and hard. May Almighty God guide and uphold its brave defenders.

This concluded the first session of the nineteenth parliament.