

*Prorogation of Parliament*

## PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber.

## GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

The Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the fifth 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:

The war is now in its sixth year. To-day, decisive battles are being fought on German soil. Under sustained pressure the defeat of Germany is but a matter of time. Present operations involve bitter fighting and heavy losses. The last phase of the struggle in Europe may well be the most costly of all. To effect the utmost saving of human life, every effort must be put forth to end the war as swiftly as possible. This clearly remains the supreme objective.

In the year that has passed since the opening of the present session, German forces everywhere have been compelled to yield ground. The whole territory of the Soviet Union has been liberated. The long awaited offensive in the west was successfully launched on June 6th. One by one, great European capitals have been taken back from their conquerors. The enemy has been almost completely swept out of France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Poland. The liberation of Holland, Norway and Czechoslovakia has begun. Germany's satellite states have all been driven from her side. Her frontiers have been breached. Her war industries are being systematically demolished. On the east and the west and from the south, the allied forces are pressing on to the very heart of Germany.

In the struggle against Japan, the long Chinese resistance has been maintained. Allied forces have successfully invaded the Philippines. Significant gains have been made on the Asiatic mainland. Bombing raids have brought the war home to the Japanese islands and their industrial strongholds. On both sides of the world, the united nations have gained supremacy at sea and in the air. It is but a matter of time until the combined power of the allies will be concentrated against Japan.

Throughout the year, Canada's navy and air force continued their vital work in the north Atlantic. In the landings in Normandy, and in all the campaigns since D-day, the navy and the air force have supported Canada's army. Our soldiers have won a foremost place by their magnificent conduct in battle in Italy, in France, in Belgium, in Holland, and on the borders of Germany. Canada's fighting men of all the services, wherever they have fought around the globe, have brought imperishable honour to our country.

[Mr. Speaker.]

In the campaign in northwest Europe, infantry casualties in all allied armies were much heavier than had been anticipated. In order to guard against a possible shortage of fully trained infantry reinforcements, it became necessary and advisable to adopt the procedure outlined in 1942. Reinforcements have been regularly forthcoming on the extended scale thereby provided for. To our armed forces, Canada has given, and will continue to give, the fullest support in men, munitions and supplies.

As an integral part of a total national effort, Canada has continued to provide mutual aid to our allies. For the joint and effective prosecution of the war, Britain, Russia, France, Australia, New Zealand, China and India have been furnished with Canadian war supplies and foodstuffs.

With your approval, the principle of mutual aid was extended to include contributions by Canada to relief and rehabilitation in liberated countries. In the period of transition from war to peace, the provision of international relief will help to maintain full employment of Canadian man-power and resources.

As in the previous sessions, your attention has been directed to the winning of the war as the first of all objectives. Next to the winning of the war, the winning of the peace is the supreme end to be achieved. My ministers hold strongly to the view that peace can only be made lasting through cooperative action on the part of peace-loving nations. They believe that the nations now united in the common purpose of winning the war should seek unitedly to ensure an enduring peace. To this end, Canada has sought to make a positive contribution.

During his visit to Britain in May, my Prime Minister exchanged views on the subject of a world security organization with the prime ministers of other nations of the British commonwealth. Since that time, preliminary conferences of the greater powers, on the establishment of an international security organization, have been held at Dumbarton Oaks. In anticipation of a general conference, Canada's views respecting some aspects of the proposals of the preliminary conferences have since been communicated to these powers.

World security is the basis of lasting prosperity and of social security. Prosperity, like security, cannot be the possession of any nation in isolation. Prosperity, likewise, demands international cooperation. Canada's prosperity and the well-being of our people are bound up with the restoration and expansion of world trade. To the efficient employment of vast numbers of Canadians, export markets are essential. Similarly, to raise the standard of living, larger imports are needed. In this belief the government has continued, in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic charter, to explore with other countries the means by which, after the war, international trade may be revived and developed.

The vital importance of exports in maintaining employment was recognized in legislation, which has since been brought into effect, to provide for the insurance and guarantee of export credits. Provision was also made for the expansion abroad of the trade commissioner service of Canada.

During the session, all customs duties on farm implements were removed, thereby helping to keep down farm costs, with benefit alike to