

Government, for all the care and forethought that you bestowed on the preparations for my recent visit. Both the Queen and I realize what heavy responsibilities such a tour as ours lays on the shoulders of Ministers, and we appreciate highly the manner in which those responsibilities were discharged. Its unquestioned success was very largely due to the skill with which it was planned; and though it could not, in the time at our disposal, be anything but strenuous in character, we were sensible throughout that every possible consideration had been given both to our safety and to our comfort.

It was a great satisfaction to me to have an opportunity from time to time of meeting so many of my Canadian Ministers, and I feel that my knowledge of the country as a whole has been considerably enlarged by the conversations that I had with them on many occasions.

To you personally I am particularly grateful for your helpful advice and support while you were in attendance on me; I need hardly say that I found your mature experience of Canadian affairs of very great value.

The gold bowl, given to us by the Canadian Government, has now arrived here safely; I should be glad if you would, on some suitable occasion, convey to your colleagues the cordial thanks of the Queen and myself for this present, which, apart from its beauty of design and craftsmanship, is a delightful memento of our long journey.

Before the summer is over you will, I hope, be able to get some real rest, for you have had an especially busy and exacting year. I send you my best wishes for a pleasant holiday.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

George R. I.

The Right Honourable

W. L. Mackenzie King, LL.D.,
Prime Minister of Canada.

I feel that we as members of Parliament have listened with much pleasure to this letter from His Majesty.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved:

That all the senators present during the session be appointed a committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

The motion was agreed to.

THE OUTBREAK OF WAR

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: I beg to lay on the Table copies, in English and in French, of documents relating to the outbreak of war, September 1939. Copies of these documents are being distributed this afternoon. I desire also to table copies of emergency Orders in Council passed since August 25, 1939.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable senators, I wish to refer to the two sets of documents laid on the Table by the honourable leader of the Government, which are of momentous consequence to us. If I caught his words correctly, the first set contains copies of correspondence with the British Government—possibly other documents too—relating to the subject-matter of the Speech from the Throne, namely, the present crisis; and the second set contains copies of what the honourable leader described as emergency Orders in Council. As to the first, before examining it I should like to ask: does it comprise all such correspondence, and give a synopsis of communications by long distance telephone, including any with the Canadian High Commissioner in London?

As to the second set, I was astonished at the volume of papers submitted as emergency Orders in Council. It looked to be large enough to contain almost a thousand. Would the honourable leader of the House clarify, in some way, just what is meant by emergency Orders in Council? If all these documents are emergency Orders in Council, the word "emergency" must have a pretty wide scope.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have not had occasion to look through all these Orders in Council. A perusal of them will show my right honourable friend what important activities have been carried on by the Executive during the last few days. I shall examine these Orders in Council with my right honourable friend and ascertain whether they deal only with the emergency situation.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That is, whether they relate altogether to the present crisis in Europe?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: As to the first set of documents—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am not in a position to answer my right honourable friend's question on that point now. He may get his answer by perusing these documents. If he wishes, I shall peruse them with him.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I should like the honourable leader to read the question I have asked him. It is quite understandable that he would not be able to answer it now. The answer cannot be found by perusal of the documents; that would disclose only what they contain, but not what is missing.