

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE.

Monday, September 1, 1919.

The Senate met at 2.45 p.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary, informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the session of the Dominion Parliament on Monday, the 1st September, at 3 o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat on the Throne. The members of the Senate being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and, that House being come, His Excellency was pleased to open the Third Session of the Thirteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In this, his first visit to our Dominion, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at once renews happy associations with his comrades of the Canadian army, and at the same time undertakes the important duty of making himself acquainted at first hand with the resources and development of our country, and with the ideals and aspirations of our people. The warm and sincere welcome which everywhere greets him is an assurance that the ties which unite our country with the Motherland and the other dominions in a great community of nations were never closer or firmer than they are to-day.

The urgency of proceeding immediately to the consideration of the Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany, signed at Versailles on the 28th day of June, 1919, has compelled me to summon you to renewed labours which I trust will not be of long duration.

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My advisers are of the opinion that this treaty ought not to be ratified on behalf of Canada without the approval of Parliament. Authenticated copies will be placed before you without delay for your consideration.

In addition you will be asked to direct your attention to other measures, including those rendered immediately necessary by the approaching return of peace and by the terms of the Peace Treaty.

Honourable Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Estimates will be laid before you making such financial provision as may be required in connection with the Peace Treaty and for other purposes.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

For more than five years the world has endured the devastation and horror of war forced upon it by an intolerable spirit and purpose of aggression. Fortunately our country has been spared the desolation and ruin which have been inflicted upon many other nations; but our participation in the war has involved heavy burdens and vast sacrifices which our people have borne with an unflinching spirit. With reverent thankfulness we realize that the world emerges victorious from its long struggle against the forces of barbarous militarism and savage aggression. The labours of reconstruction may be difficult and even painful; and we must undertake them with the same united resolve and inflexible purpose as sustained our efforts during the years of conflict. To you and to the great nation whose affairs are committed to your charge, I bid God-speed in all your endeavours.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

CONSIDERATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, it was ordered that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration to-morrow.

BILL PRO FORMA.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED presented a Bill intituled, an Act relating to Railways.

The Bill was read the first time.