

(C) PARLIAMENT

1. TEXT OF THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE, DELIVERED BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR
LYMAN POORE DUFF, ADMINISTRATOR, THE 16TH OF
MAY

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

You have been summoned to the first session of a new Parliament at a time of the greatest conflict in the history of mankind. Upon the outcome of the struggle will depend the maintenance of civilized society and the inheritance of human freedom for our own and future generations.

Since Parliament last met, the nature of the conflict, the character of the enemy, and the perils which menace all free nations, have become only too clear. In that short space of time, the world has seen the peaceful and peace-loving peoples of Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg made the victims of the treachery and barbarism which have marked the successive outrages of Nazi Germany. It has also witnessed the invasion of Finland, and, despite the epic resistance of its heroic population, the partition of that unoffending country. At any time, the lust of conquest may vastly enlarge the theatre of war. These tragic events have but served to intensify our determination to share in the war effort of the allied powers to the utmost of our strength. In this resolution the Government has been fortified by the direct and unquestioned mandate of the Canadian people.

The organization and prosecution of Canada's war effort have commanded the unremitting attention of my ministers. The constant consultation and complete co-operation maintained with the governments of the United Kingdom and France have been materially strengthened by the recent visit to those countries of my Minister of National Defence.

You will be fully informed of Canada's action both in the military and economic fields. You will be asked to consider measures deemed essential for the prosecution of the war, and for the social and economic requirements of the country.

While the present session of Parliament will necessarily be mainly concerned with Canada's war effort, and the measures essential to the achievement of ultimate victory, my Ministers are of opinion that, despite what today is being witnessed of concentrated warfare, it is desirable, as far as may be possible, to plan for the days that will follow the cessation of hostilities.