

After which the Honourable the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the Third Session of the Twentieth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, with the following Speech:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate,*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

The restoration of peace and world recovery have not proceeded as speedily as had been hoped for. Failure to conclude peace settlements with Germany and Austria has complicated the political and economic situation, not only in Europe, but throughout the world. Several countries, including Canada, have approved treaties of peace with Italy, Roumania, Hungary and Finland.

In Europe, the delay in the re-establishment of industries has continued to affect adversely the balance of foreign trade and of international payments. The severe winter and the shortage of necessities, particularly of food, have added to human suffering, and aggravated the problems of relief and rehabilitation.

Unsettled world conditions have been reflected in many of the measures you have been called upon to consider at the session now being concluded.

On June 30, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration came to an end. The need for relief, however, has not ended. In recognition of this need, Parliament has made a substantial appropriation for the purchase of food and other essentials of life required by peoples of war-devastated lands. Parliament has also approved Canadian membership in the International Refugee Organization.

Canada is participating fully in the activities of the Economic and Social Council, the Atomic Energy Commission, and other agencies of the United Nations. Our country is also effectively represented at the International Conference on Trade and Employment at Geneva.

As a result of the deliberations of a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, a Committee, on which Canada is represented, was created to prepare a report on Palestine.

An important feature of the session has been the removal, in an orderly manner, of the majority of controls and restrictions in force during and immediately after the war. To guard against sudden and excessive increases in the cost of living, and for other reasons, certain emergency orders and regulations have been continued for a further transitional period.

Another important development has been the action taken to encourage immigration. The Government's policy involves the careful selection of immigrants and adjustment of their numbers to the absorptive capacity of the country. Practical steps have also been taken to relieve the lot of many displaced persons and refugees.

Notwithstanding the unsettled conditions abroad, employment and national income at home have remained at high levels. The demand for the products of our primary industries has, in almost all cases, been sustained. Towards stabilizing the incomes of those engaged in agriculture, measures relating to the Canadian Wheat Board, and to the sale and export of certain other agricultural products have been enacted. The Fisheries Prices Support Act is being brought into operation. The maintenance of our prosperity will increasingly depend upon how conditions develop in other parts of the world.