

Governor General's Speech

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After which the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the third session of the seventeenth parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I desire to thank you for the careful attention you have given to the various measures submitted for your consideration during the present session of parliament. The zealous discharge of your duties manifests alike, a deep concern for the welfare of Canada and an unshaken confidence in its future.

It is gratifying to observe that the program of economy for the current fiscal year will ensure relative equalization of revenues and expenditures, and that the additional moneys necessary to provide for the public service will be obtained without adverse effect upon the cost of living or impairment of the national credit.

My government's policy of unemployment and farm relief, consistently and vigorously pursued, has already achieved an amelioration of conditions and forecasts steady and continued improvement in both agrarian and industrial communities.

The means by which a larger area of distribution has been secured for the coal production of the maritime provinces will do much to relieve conditions heretofore prevailing in that part of the Dominion.

The measure for national ownership and control of radio broadcasting provides the necessary assurance against foreign interference with broadcasting from Canadian sources, and ensures to our people, without regard to class or place, equality of service from the new broadcasting system to be inaugurated as soon as practicable.

The commercial agreement negotiated with the Dominion of New Zealand and ratified by parliament is a further step towards closer empire economic association based upon the principle of reciprocal benefits.

The enquiry by a committee of the House of Commons into the operation of the Civil Service Act prepares the way for a reorganization of the Civil Service Commission and the better administration of matters pertaining to the civil service.

Among other important measures enacted were bills respecting The Patent Act, Unfair Competition in Trade and Commerce, the Export of Gold, Insurance, The Fisheries Act, The Judges Act, The Excise Act, The Companies Act, The Soldiers Settlement Act and The Railway Act.

Approval has been given the British Commonwealth Shipping Agreement, The International Convention for the Amelioration of Conditions of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field, The International Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, The International Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public service.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I do sincerely commend the fortitude and patience with which the Canadian people have endured the trials and hardships of these troubled times. Those attributes have equipped them to surmount whatever difficulties may yet be encountered before prosperity returns. Recurring disturbances in world conditions have hindered our progress. The prosperity we rightly expected before this time has been by them delayed. For no nation can alone resist the influence of the universal disruption of financial and industrial conditions.

Near at hand are the means by which this country, organized and prepared, may hasten its economic recovery. Within two months' time an economic conference of the countries which compose the British Empire will meet at Ottawa. From that conference may arise a power which will bring enduring harmony out of economic chaos, and provide the wise and courageous leadership which in other times of universal stress the world looked for and obtained from the British peoples. Canada believes that the closer economic association of the British Empire will herald the dawn of a new and greater era of prosperity both for ourselves and for all the nations of the earth.

In relieving you from attendance upon your parliamentary duties, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless you.

This concluded the third session of the seventeenth parliament.