

Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, with the speech of His Excellency to which we have just listened. If the speech from the Throne has one purpose above another in our parliamentary customs and procedure, it is that, through this time-honored medium, His Excellency's advisers shall acquaint Parliament, and through Parliament the country, with the important business to be transacted at the session to which His Excellency has summoned honorable members of both Houses. If it does less than this, it becomes a mere matter of form, wholly superfluous and scarcely befitting the dignity of the high office held by the Governor-General of this Dominion.

I need not go beyond the last session of this Parliament to shew wherein there has been lamentable neglect of this essential feature of our parliamentary procedure. The acquisition by the Government of this country of the Grand Trunk Railway System, including the Grand Trunk Pacific, was a transaction unparalleled in magnitude in the history of this Parliament, and, to say nothing of its significance in other respects, unequalled, in the additional liabilities it places upon the taxpayers of Canada, by anything save the vast expenditures and obligations growing out of the recent war. Not a suggestion of the possibility of any such legislation being introduced was contained in the speech from