

to the importance of this question and will use every reasonable endeavour to attract to our country people of the most desirable class, with particular regard to settlement on our undeveloped lands.

The work in connection with the re-establishment, medical treatment and vocational training of former members of the Canadian Forces is being sympathetically and energetically prosecuted. The care of the disabled still demands the best thought of those who are charged with the duty of administering the benefits provided. It is intended, during the coming session, again to consult Parliament concerning some of the problems still remaining.

The long standing question of granting the control of the natural resources of three Western Provinces to their respective Provincial Governments has engaged the attention of my Ministers. Sympathizing with the desire of the authorities of these Provinces, which have now advanced to maturity, to have the same control and management of their resources as is possessed by the older Provinces, my Government have made a proposal to the Governments of the several Provinces concerned, which it is hoped may lead to a satisfactory settlement of the question at an early date.

With the object of promoting economy and increasing efficiency, a Bill will be submitted to you, providing for a Department of Defence, in which the various branches of the defence forces of Canada will be co-ordinated under one ministerial head.

During the interval since the last Parliament, there has been held in Washington on the invitation of the President of the United States an International Conference to consider an agreed limitation of armaments and in connection therewith to reach an understanding concerning the political relations of the Powers interested in the regions of the Pacific and the Far East. From this Conference treaties of far reaching consequence have resulted. It is the opinion of my advisers that approval of Parliament ought to precede their ratification on behalf of Canada. The treaties with appropriate explanations will accordingly be placed before you during the session.

As the result of recent discussions among the Powers, it has been decided to hold at Genoa a conference with the object of securing, through frank and amicable consultation among the nations who have been at war, a concerted effort to repair the grave dislocations in the economic and financial field that have everywhere followed the war. The Government of Canada has been invited to participate and delegates have been appointed for the purpose.

An invitation has been extended to the Government of Canada by the Government of the United States to take part in a Postal Conference, at which all phases of mail communication from one country to the other may be fully discussed. Reciprocating the spirit that has prompted the invitation, the Canadian Government will, in due course, appoint representatives to meet the representatives of the United States for the purpose mentioned.

Members of the House of Commons:

The Public Accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you. At an early date the Estimates for the coming year will be submitted. In their preparation imperative need for economy has rendered necessary the non-inclusion of many undertakings, appropriations for which must await a more favourable financial situation.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In inviting your careful consideration of the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

On motion of Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King (Prime Minister):

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament be taken into consideration on Monday next, and that this order have precedence over all other business except the introduction of bills until disposed of.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Before the motion carries, I would say that I had no intimation from the Government,—which I know will surprise hon. gentlemen across the way—as to what the intentions of the Government were in regard to the conduct of proceedings this week. It seems to me too bad if the entire week is to be devoted merely to formalities. Would it not be possible to take the Speech from the Throne into consideration to-morrow?

Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING: (Prime Minister) Mr. Speaker, I regret that there has been any oversight in informing my right hon. friend of the customary procedure at the opening of parliament, but I had assumed that his experience in this House would have sufficiently acquainted him with what was customary on the opening day. I think, when we consider that hon. members are gathered together for the first time in this new Parliament, it will probably be consulting the convenience of all parties if we follow the custom of the past and adjourn after to-day's proceedings until Monday.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is by no means the invariable custom to do so. The late Government managed to get down to business sooner.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend will have ample time to discuss all matters. I might observe to him that in his impatience to make his announcement to the House yesterday he did not so much as permit His Excellency the right to read the Speech from the Throne before informing the House as to what business he would like to have taken up. We on this side will do everything necessary to facilitate the business of Parliament, and I think we can get on without the suggestion of my right hon. friend.

Motion agreed to.