

In the name of the Commons, I present to Your Excellency the following bills:—

Acts for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1936.

To which bills I humbly request Your Excellency's assent.

To these bills the Clerk of the Senate, by command of His Excellency the Governor General, did thereupon say:

In His Majesty's name, His Excellency the Governor General thanks his loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to these bills.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

After which His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the sixth 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:

In bringing to a close the last session of the 17th Parliament of Canada I congratulate you upon the extent and importance of your legislative enactments.

My ministers have for some time been convinced that reforms and adjustments in the existing economic system have become necessary to ensure its more effective and equitable operation. Throughout the world there is a new approach on the part of governments to financial and economic problems, and I confidently believe that the Economic Council of Canada, for which you have provided, will in the future become an important factor in the government service for the correlation of information and scientific investigation.

By the Natural Products Marketing Act, enacted at the last session of parliament, you provided for investigations into costs, price spreads, trade practices and other matters related to the production, marketing and processing of natural products.

During the present session you have amended that statute and the Combines Investigation Act; the Companies Act and the criminal code; and provided for the establishment of a dominion trade and industry commission. These measures will ensure to investors security against fraud; to the producer and distributor, the elimination of unfair practices, to the consumer higher standards of products, and to the dominion a condition of healthy competition in industry. The provision made for the appointment of a director of public prosecutions ensures the enforcement of these enactments.

By the legislation enacted respecting minimum wages, hours of work and weekly rest, the parliament of Canada has made an important advance in the field of social legislation. These measures are of great importance because of their bearing upon economic conditions throughout the country and because they represent Canada's determination to maintain fair and humane conditions of labour for men, women and children in keeping with the national obligations under the treaties of peace and the conventions adopted by the general

conference of the International Labour Organization of the League of Nations, to which Canada subscribed.

Through the action of my government, in cooperation with the financial institutions of the country, Canada enjoys the most favourable interest rates in its history. The provision which you have made for loans to farmers at low interest rates, and the measure which you have enacted during the last session of parliament respecting farmers' indebtedness have improved their economic condition. The amendments made to these measures during the session will further extend their benefits. You have also made provision for assisting fishermen by establishing a system of long term mortgage credit.

The enactment of the measure relating to unemployment and social insurance will, through the establishment of a national labour exchange service, provide for dealing more effectively with the problem of seasonal and other unemployment, and will afford the means whereby Canadian workers can, with the assistance of the government, make provision for their own security.

Following a conference with the representatives of all the provinces my ministers have decided to appoint a royal commission to make a thorough investigation of our national health problems with a view to proposing a definite plan for the cooperation of federal and provincial authorities in a national health policy.

The measures which you have taken to provide for public works and undertakings throughout Canada, to authorize the guarantee of certain railway equipment securities, and to assist in the construction of houses will, it is confidently believed, do much to stimulate industry in the building trades throughout the country and create employment.

The action which you have taken during the past few years to raise prices paid to wheat producers gives effect to the policy adopted at the Empire Economic Conference held at Ottawa and the World Economic Conference held at London. By your action in providing for the Canadian Wheat Board that policy will be continued.

The provisions which you have made for the revaluation of gold and an exchange stabilization fund constitute an important effort to restore normal exchange conditions throughout the world and make possible a greater volume of international trade.

Important amendments have been made to the Income War Tax Act, and provision has been made for the rehabilitation of drouth and soil drifting areas in the prairie provinces. Other measures include the relief act and an act to amend and consolidate the acts relating to patents of invention.

During the session my government tabled the additional protocol to the trade agreement between Canada and France, which provides for the extension of further tariff concessions by each country to the products of the other. You have approved a convention of commerce between Canada and Poland, by means of which it is hoped to increase the trade between the two countries on mutually advantageous terms. A *modus vivendi* was also concluded with the republic of Haiti, and the New Zealand trade agreement has been extended.