

Ministers believe that to prevent inflation and to safeguard a basic standard of living it remains necessary to maintain the price ceiling and stabilization of wages and salaries.

To ensure economic stability for agriculture, you will be asked to make provision for a price floor for staple farm products.

Among other matters to which your attention will be directed will be the revision of the Bank Act, and the provision of adequate facilities for the exercise of the franchise by men and women serving in the armed forces.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

You will be asked to make financial provision for the effective prosecution of the war and for other necessary services.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I express, I know, the thoughts of all Canada when I say with what pride and admiration we have followed the exploits of our armed forces. At sea, on land and in the air, the fighting men of Canada, wherever they have served, have displayed the highest courage, endurance and skill. I give them your assurance that their lives are more precious to their country than all else, and that it is our supreme aim to ensure their early and victorious return to their homeland.

As I invite your consideration of the very difficult problems which will engage your attention in this momentous year, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King it was ordered,—That, until the House otherwise orders, the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament be taken into consideration on Friday next, and that this order have precedence over all other business except the introduction of Bills; Government Notices of Motions and Government Orders; until disposed of.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King, a Special Committee consisting of Messrs. Mackenzie (*Vancouver Centre*), Michaud, Casselman (*Grenville-Dundas*), MacInnis and Taylor was appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of Members to compose the Standing Committees of this House under Standing Order 63.

Mr. Mackenzie King, delivered a message from His Excellency the Governor General, which was read by Mr. Speaker, as follows:—

ATHLONE.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved Minute of Council appointing the Honourable T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources, the Honourable J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, the Honourable J. E. Michaud, Minister of Transport, and the Honourable J. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of Chapter 145 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, intituled: "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, Ottawa,

27th January, 1944.