

having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons being come with their Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to close the Second Session of the Nineteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

Since the present session opened, we have witnessed the extension of war until, to-day, it encompasses the globe. As aggression has succeeded aggression, the active resistance of free peoples everywhere has risen to meet it. The myth of national isolation has vanished from the earth. It is now recognized that the freedom of each nation is bound up in the freedom of all.

A little more than a year ago, the countries of the British Commonwealth stood virtually alone, except for China, in armed resistance to the forces seeking domination of the world. In the front line of freedom were the brave people of Britain. Most of the countries of Europe lay at the feet of the conqueror. The heroic resistance of the peoples of Yugoslavia and Greece, the entry as an ally into the war of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the determination and military might of the armed forces of the Soviet Union, and the achievements of the British and Allied forces in Africa have materially changed the outlook of Europe.

A new and very critical situation has been created by Japanese aggression in the Far East and by the declaration of war by Japan against the United States, the British Commonwealth and the Netherlands. Germany and Italy have joined Japan in declaring war against the United States. In assessing the possible consequences of Japan's action, full account should be taken of the significance of the entry of the United States into war against the combined Axis Powers.

In Canada, within recent weeks, the world aspect of the conflict has been reflected by formal declarations of the existence of a state of war between Canada and Japan, and shortly before, by similar declarations against Hungary, Rumania, and Finland, whose Governments had passed completely under Nazi domination. Canada's action in this respect was a part of the solidarity which now embraces the war effort of all the Allies.

In Britain, in the Far East, in the skies over Europe and over Africa, and on all the seven seas, Canada's fighting men are upholding freedom. Hostilities in the Pacific have added to our problems and responsibilities. Already, by their heroic participation in the defence of the island fortress of Hong Kong, Canadian troops have written an immortal chapter of Canadian valour.

The whole economy of Canada has been increasingly directed to meet the needs of war. There has been a steady and orderly mobilization of material resources and of men and women for the widely varied tasks of modern total war.

Additional precautions have been taken for civil defence.

Further provision has been made for the dependents of members of the armed forces.

Reciprocity in the war production of Canada and the United States was established as a result of the agreement reached at Hyde Park in April last. The war production of the two countries has been further increased by subsequent joint agreements.

Comprehensive and drastic measures have been taken to control the cost of living and to prevent inflation.

My Government has maintained close association with His Majesty's Governments in Britain and other parts of the British Commonwealth, and with those of the Allied powers. My Prime Minister and several of my Ministers have visited the United Kingdom for consultation and conference. The Prime Minister of Great Britain, the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, other Ministers from different parts of the Commonwealth, and distinguished representatives of the Allied Governments have also visited Canada. These personal exchanges have heartened and strengthened our common effort.

Of particular significance have been the meeting at sea and the conferences held at Washington between the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States, and the visit to Canada of the Prime Minister of Great Britain. In these conferences, my Prime Minister and other of my Ministers have been both directly and indirectly associated. The Atlantic Charter agreed upon between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain has been approved by all the Allied nations. It sets forth underlying principles of a new world order upon which all are agreed. An outcome of the conferences at Washington was the important declaration signed at Washington, at the beginning of the present year, by the representatives of twenty-six nations. It binds each of the several countries to employ all of its resources against the Axis Powers, and not to conclude a separate armistice or peace.

In the course of the present session, the people of Canada learned with regret of the death of two former Governors General. The names of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and the Marquess of Willingdon will remain outstanding among those of the distinguished representatives, in Canada, of His Majesty the King.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the financial appropriations you have made. Their unprecedented magnitude is but one of many evidences of the determination of the Canadian people to put forth their utmost effort in the winning of the war.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I devoutly join with you in invoking the aid of Divine Providence in the preservation of our Christian civilization.