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Excellency the Governor General. It advised that a proclamation be issued by the King declaring that a state of war existed between Canada and Germany.

The contents of the order in council were communicated by cable to the Canadian High Commissioner in London. On the morning of Sunday, September the 10th, the advice of His Majesty's Government in Canada was communicated by the High Commissioner to the King, who at the time was at Windsor. His Majesty immediately signified his approval, and a Proclamation in the King's name was issued as soon as word of His Majesty's approval reached Ottawa by cable. The Proclamation was published in a special issue of the *Canada Gazette* which appeared on Sunday morning at 11.35 Eastern Standard Time.

His Majesty's words as set forth in the Proclamation were:

"We do hereby declare and proclaim that a state of war with the German Reich exists, and has existed in our Dominion of Canada as and from the tenth day of September, 1939."

When Parliament resumed its sittings at three o'clock on the afternoon of Monday, September the 11th, Canada was already at war. Shortly before two o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday, September the 13th, Parliament was prorogued by the Governor General. Within these two days, the legislative measures required for the prosecution of the war had been debated, passed through successive stages in both Houses, and given the Royal Assent.

The most important legislation was necessarily financial. A grant of one hundred million dollars was made to His Majesty for the immediate use of the Government in prosecuting the war. In order to raise the money, existing taxes were increased and new taxes imposed. Provision was made for the creation, when deemed necessary, of a new department of government, to be entitled the Department of Munitions and Supply. Other measures were enacted to establish a Patriotic Fund, and to give proper regulation to War Charities.

*The speedy despatch of public business*

It will be seen that the proceedings of the special session were completed within a single week's time. There were three reasons,

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in particular, why Parliament was able to despatch its business so quickly. The first of these was the co-operative attitude of the members of both Houses, and of all political parties. There was a general desire that the support to be given by Canada to Britain and France should be given as speedily and effectively as possible. There was, too, I believe, a desire to make clear to the world that a democracy was as capable of meeting a great crisis as a dictatorship. There was equally a determination to show that the will of the nation could be expressed decisively by a free Parliament. These aims found expression in the words of the Speech from the Throne used by His Excellency at the time of proroguing Parliament:

"The promptness with which you have acted affords unmistakable evidence of the ability of a free people, through its representatives in a free Parliament, to meet the grave emergencies of war."

The second reason why Parliament was able to act so quickly was the existence, as a part of the law of Canada, of the War Measures Act of 1914. Framed expressly to meet the emergency of war, or of apprehended war, this Act enabled the Government to take measures which, otherwise, would have required the specific authority of Parliament. As soon as the Government had valid reasons for apprehending the outbreak of hostilities, steps were taken, well in advance of the meeting of Parliament, to ensure the defence of Canada against sudden attack. Since the proclamation of a state of war, most of the other measures required, apart from the granting of money and the imposing of taxes, have been taken in virtue of the same authority. The War Measures Act enabled the Government to act quickly to meet emergencies, while leaving to Parliament the essential decisions.

The third factor which contributed to the rapid and decisive action of Parliament was the care given by the Government to the preparation, in advance, of essential features of its legislative program. As from time to time danger threatened, the Government, as was its duty, had kept constantly in mind the need of preparedness in the eventuality of war. As a consequence, when war did break out in Europe, which threatened to involve Great Britain and other parts of the British Commonwealth, we were in a position to take the