

War Measures Act

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Copies of the report are being sent to all hon. members. In fact, I am not at all sure that they have not already been sent out from the distribution office.

WAR MEASURES ACT

TABLING OF ORDERS IN COUNCIL PASSED SINCE
AUGUST 25, 1939

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I wish to table the orders in council passed under the authority of the War Measures Act since August 25, 1939. In January I tabled in typewritten form such orders in council as had been passed up to the end of the year 1939. Since then those orders in council have been printed, and they will be tabled in printed form. The orders in council passed since the end of last year, up to and including May 11 of this year, are being tabled in typewritten form.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): It would greatly facilitate my perusing the orders in council if at the time they are tabled a copy should be handed to me. Would that be in order?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As these orders in council have been passed copies have been immediately forwarded to the office of the leader of the opposition and also to the leaders of other groups in the house. I shall make quite certain that my hon. friend obtains a complete set.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I thank my right hon. friend for his courtesy.

VACANCIES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received communications from several members, notifying me that the following vacancies had occurred in the representation, viz:

Of Walter George Brown, member for the electoral district of Saskatoon City, by de-
cease;

Of Alonzo Bowen Hyndman, member for the electoral district of Carleton, Ontario, by
decease.

I accordingly issued my several warrants to the chief electoral officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts, respectively.

ACTING DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have appointed J. Laundry to be acting deputy sergeant-at-arms during the present session.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 4.04 p.m.

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

Friday, May 17, 1940

The house met at three o'clock.

EUROPEAN WAR

INQUIRY AS TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). In view of the serious although, I hope, not critical situation which apparently has developed on the western front during the last few hours, is he prepared to make any statement to the house at this juncture?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): My hon. friend was kind enough to mention to me in advance of this afternoon's sitting that he would ask the question which he has just put to me. I might point out, as the house will observe, that there are no orders on to-day's order paper except the special order for the consideration of the address, to which precedence was given by resolution of the house yesterday; the procedure will be to take up at once the consideration of the address. However, the house will, I believe, agree that my hon. friend was quite right in availing himself of the earliest opportunity to ask the question he has just asked. I draw attention to the absence of orders of the day on to-day's order paper only lest some other members might feel that they were not being accorded an equal right if His Honour the Speaker ruled we should proceed at once to the consideration of the address.

Our most recent information indicates continued penetration by German forces along the Franco-Belgian border west of Sedan. For the most part the enemy forces engaged consist of mechanized forces assisted by aircraft. The situation is serious but is not considered critical. The French command are taking energetic steps, in cooperation with the United Kingdom, and it is expected the situation will be stabilized. The British and French air forces have proved very effective and a British air raid on the Ruhr has done great damage to the enemy. There is no doubt, however, that the situation is grave.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): With the permission of the house, may I add this. There is no doubt, as the Prime Minister has said, that the situation is very serious; let us pray that it is not critical. Having regard to that fact, may I, on behalf of the party which I have the honour to represent in this house, offer to the Prime Minister and the govern-