

Governor General's Speech

To these bills the royal assent was pronounced by the Clerk of the Senate in the following words:

In His Majesty's name the Honourable the Deputy Governor General doth assent to these bills.

Then the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed the Honourable the Deputy Governor General as follows:

May it please Your Honour:

The Commons of Canada have voted supplies required to enable the government to defray certain expenses of the public service.

In the name of the commons, I present to Your Honour the following bill:

An act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1939.

To which bill I humbly request Your Honour's assent.

To this bill the Clerk of the Senate, by command of the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, did thereupon say:

In His Majesty's name, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General thanks his loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this bill.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

After which His Honour the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the third session of the eighteenth parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In bringing the present session to a close, I desire to express my appreciation of the careful attention given the many measures submitted for your consideration.

International relations and domestic conditions continue to be affected by conflict, disorders and tensions in different parts of the world. The disturbed situation abroad, and prolonged and unprecedented drought in western Canada, have, unfortunately, somewhat retarded recovery. Improvement in economic conditions has, however, been more steadily maintained in Canada than in many other countries. Gratifying factors in the situation are the further diminution in the numbers on relief, and the progressive and substantial reductions in the deficits in the national accounts. The outlook for agriculture in the west is more hopeful than it has been for some years.

An outstanding feature of the session has been the adoption of measures constituting a long-range nation-wide program of conservation and development, designed to stimulate employment and enlarge the national income. They include a comprehensive housing scheme, under which special assistance will be afforded in the construction of houses to be owned by families of limited means, and of housing accommodation in urban centres to be leased at less than economic rentals.

The dominion has undertaken to pay a substantial proportion of municipal real estate taxes, over a three-year period, on new houses

erected before the end of 1940, and to make loans, at low interest rates, to municipalities to enable them to undertake projects of a self-liquidating character.

The housing program has been further aided, and increased activity in the construction industry fostered by the exemption from sales tax of materials entering into the construction of houses and other buildings.

Under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, further progress has been made, in the development and conservation of water supplies, and the formation of community pasture areas where lands are not suitable for cultivation.

Appropriations have been made for the continuation, on a broader scale, of the youth training program, and for its extension to include persons of older age.

Provision has been made for the complete nationalization of the Bank of Canada through the acquisition by the government of the ownership, in its entirety, of the capital stock of the bank.

The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada has been superseded by a Board of Transport Commissioners, with authority in respect of transport by air and water, as well as by rail.

The trans-Canada air service is now operating a regular air mail schedule over a considerable area of the dominion. It is expected that, at an early date, a coast to coast service will be in operation.

The provisions of the criminal code relating to the improper driving of motor vehicles have been made more stringent. Other important amendments have been adopted.

The War Veterans' Allowance Act has been amended to provide for veterans who, although not totally incapacitated, are incapable of maintaining themselves, and for those who served in South Africa and were domiciled in Canada at the time of their enlistment.

The registration of shop cards has been authorized, a measure which has been advocated for many years by labour unions in Canada.

The special committee of the House of Commons on Elections and Franchise Acts has given careful study to the means employed to effect redistribution in Canada and other countries, and to proposals with respect to political expenditures. A new Dominion Elections Act has been enacted.

Considerable progress has been made in the negotiations which, for several months past, have been carried on with the government of the United States, with a view to revising and extending the trade agreement concluded in 1935. It is hoped the negotiations will result in a comprehensive Agreement, which will facilitate the further development of trade between the two countries.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public service.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In taking leave of you at this time, I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may rest upon your labours.

This concluded the third session of the eighteenth parliament.