

“An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service of the financial year ending respectively the 31st March, 1916, and the 31st March, 1917.”

“An Act for granting to His Majesty aid for Military and Naval Defence.”

“To these Bills I humbly request Your Honour’s assent.”

Then, after the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery had read the title of these Bills,

To these Bills the Royal Assent was pronounced by the Clerk of the Senate, in the following words:—

“In His Majesty’s name, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General thanks His Loyal Subjects, accepts their benovolence, and assents to these Bills.

After which the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the Sixth Session of the Twelfth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, with the following Speech:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In this crisis of our national life your attention has been directed to affairs of supreme importance; and it is with gratitude that I recall the care and devotion with which you have considered and approved all necessary measures for effective prosecution of the war. Our Empire, with unexampled singleness of purpose, is defending not only its own integrity and institutions but also the rights of mankind. It is my sincere conviction that your efforts will materially aid in the achievement of that unquestioned victory for which we shall not cease to strive until it is attained.

The struggle, still proceeding in many widespread theatres, has recently become more intense on the western front, where for more than a year the Dominion troops have been engaged. The Canadian Army Corps has been entrusted with an important position, and the people of the Dominion justly cherish a calm confidence that it will fully maintain the honourable and distinguished record already established by the First Division.

Throughout our country the response to the urgency of the Empire’s need has been unfailing, and unaccustomed burdens have been accepted with an unflinching spirit. Nearly 170,000 troops have gone overseas and more than 140,000 are undergoing training in Canada. To supply the needed reinforcements men have offered themselves in even greater numbers during the first four months of this year than in any similar period during the war.

I am convinced that the important measures which you have taken for the economic well-being of the Dominion will meet the needs of the situation and will be attended with marked advantage to the public interest.

The magnificent crops harvested during the past season have materially assisted in maintaining the stability of our national fabric. You will rejoice to learn that the vastly increased volume of Canada’s exports is still maintained and that the general prosperity of the country has not been perceptibly diminished by the war.

In dealing with national problems of railway development you have made provision by which present needs will be met. Steps will be taken by my advisors without delay to insure an effective inquiry into the conditions by which those problems are surrounded and the most efficient methods by which they can be solved.

The provision for supplementing, with such aid as is required from the federal power, the operation of provincial legislation restricting the sale or use of intoxicating liquors, is in accordance with the marked advance of public opinion to which the provincial enactments are due.