

ber the great policies were debated and worked out which have touched the development of our country and its future destiny. In that Chamber the great men who founded this Confederation spoke, and did their duty as representatives of the people in Parliament from the inception of Confederation through the active period of their lifetime.

The destruction of the building is the loss of a great historic monument. I believe that the chamber of the old clock tower was prepared for the reception of the clock in 1877. Some one has handed to me an extract from the report of the Department of Public Works for that year, which recounted that the clock chamber of the tower had been placed in position to receive the clock from Messrs Dent & Company, of London, England, and that the new library had been finished and occupied. The old clock had held its own until the very last; it struck nine, ten, eleven, and made a brave but unsuccessful attempt to strike in full the midnight hour. Shortly afterwards the tower itself fell, a monument so conspicuous in Ottawa and the surrounding country, which for many years had heralded the sittings and the adjournments of this House.

I desire to present to the House a message from His Majesty the King, which was received by His Royal Highness the Governor General this morning, as follows:

The Duke of Connaught,  
Ottawa.

I am grieved to hear of the deplorable destruction of the noble pile of buildings which has been for many years the home of the Dominion Parliament, and which I know so well. Please convey to your ministers and the people of Canada my sincere sympathy with them in their great loss.

George R.I.

His Royal Highness the Governor General will, on behalf of the Parliament, the people and the Government of Canada, return a suitable reply to the gracious message of His Majesty.

I have also a letter from His Royal Highness the Governor General which it is appropriate to read to the House.

My dear Sir Robert:

I desire to express through you my warm sympathy to both Houses of Parliament on the terrible calamity of last night, by which those historical buildings were almost entirely destroyed by fire.

I know how universal will be the regret felt, not only in the Dominion itself, but throughout the Empire.

I deplore the loss of life which has, I fear, occurred, and desire to express my deep sym-

pathy with the families of those who have so unfortunately perished.

Believe me, yours very sincerely.

Arthur.

I shall deem it my duty to express to His Royal Highness the Governor General the appreciation which I know is entertained by all members of the House of the message which he has been good enough thus to transmit to us.

It is also proper that I should read to the House a telegram which I have received from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan, dated last evening.

Sir Robert Borden,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—I am directed by the Acting Premier of Saskatchewan to forward you the following resolution passed to-night:

Resolved,—that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, having just learned of the frightful calamity that has occurred this evening at Ottawa in the destruction of the Parliament Buildings, desire to convey to Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, on behalf of our people, the very deep regret and concern that all feel respecting the disaster that has occurred.

I have also had the honour of receiving from the Prime Minister of Quebec the following message, which I give for the information of the House:

Quebec, 4th Feb., 1916.

Sir Robert L. Borden,  
Premier,  
Ottawa, Ont.

My colleagues and myself have learned with very great regret of the disastrous fire which caused so many deaths and destroyed public buildings. Please accept our sincere and deep sympathy. Can we be useful in any way?

Lomer Gouin.

I have sent appropriate replies to each of these messages, and I feel that I may express, on behalf of all the members of Parliament, our great appreciation of these tokens of sympathy.

We have had many offers of assistance from those who are provided with buildings in Ottawa. Offers of accommodation have been received from the Grand Trunk Railway Company, the Ottawa Collegiate Institute, the Dominion theatre, and from Rev. Dr. Sparling, on behalf of the Methodist church. It seems, however, that adequate provision can be made in this building for the immediate needs of Parliament.

I might also read, for the information of the House, a Minute of Council which was passed this morning and which sets forth what the proposals of the Government will