

On August 28 Germany began rationing. On August 29 Mr. Chamberlain again reaffirmed the pledge given by Great Britain. On August 31 there came the ratification of the German-Russian pact, and the announcement of the sixteen points put forward by Herr Hitler. On September 1 the Germans took over Danzig and invaded Poland, Poland invoked British aid, and the British and French governments sent ultimatums to Germany. The king signed an order for the mobilization of the forces of the United Kingdom. On that same day as Prime Minister I announced that our parliament would be called for September 7. At the same time I announced that the government would seek authority to cooperate with the United Kingdom. On September 3 the United Kingdom and France were at war. On the afternoon of that day, Sunday last, I made a broadcast to the country in which I stated what the policy of the government would be, namely, that we were summoning parliament in order to make further provision for the defence of Canada and to be at the side of Great Britain cooperating in the great effort she was putting forth to resist further aggression.

I would ask the house to allow me to place on *Hansard* as read some of the communications to which I have referred. First is the one of August 23, 1939, at which time we received word that the United Kingdom was summoning parliament to pass a Defence of the Realm emergency act, and in which I announced that the government was availing itself immediately of the provisions of our War Measures Act to meet the situation with respect to apprehended war and that parliament would be immediately summoned. I imagine there will be no objection to that document appearing as part of the spoken record:

In the statement issued by the government of the United Kingdom last night and which appears in this morning's press, announcement was made that the United Kingdom parliament has been summoned to meet to-morrow at which time the government propose to invite both houses to pass through all its stages the Emergency Powers (Defence) bill. The effect of this will be to place the government in a position to take any necessary measures without delay should the situation require it.

An act of a similar character known as the War Measures Act was passed by the parliament of Canada in 1914. This act has never been repealed. It finds its place to-day as chapter 206 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, and is intitled "An act to confer certain powers upon the governor in council in the event of war, invasion or insurrection." The provisions of this act are exceedingly comprehensive. They apply to war "real or apprehended." Were the War Measures Act not already upon our statutes I would, in the existing circumstances, have considered it advisable and neces-

sary to summon parliament immediately for the purpose of the enactment of a similar statute. However, with the provisions of the act what they are, the government is already in a position, should the situation require, to take any necessary precautionary measures without delay. For some time past careful consideration has been given by the several government departments as to action that may be necessary in the event of an emergency.

While taking these measures of precaution, the Canadian government, like the government of the United Kingdom, remain of the opinion that "there is nothing in the difficulties that have arisen between Germany and Poland which would justify the use of force involving a European war with all its tragic consequences," and that there are "no questions in Europe which should not be capable of peaceful solution if only conditions of confidence could be restored."

Should it become apparent that the efforts being made to preserve the peace of Europe are likely to be of no avail, parliament will be immediately summoned. With agencies of communication and transportation what they are to-day it should be possible to have parliament meet within a week from the date of summons.

The important sections of the War Measures Act are as follows:

Extract from chapter 206, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927—1914 (second session).

An act to confer certain powers upon the governor in council in the event of war, invasion or insurrection.

Powers of the governor in council.

3. (1) The governor in council may do and authorize such acts and things, and make from time to time such orders and regulations, as he may by reason of the existence of real or apprehended war, invasion or insurrection deem necessary or available for the security, defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada; and for greater certainty, but not so as to restrict the generality of the foregoing terms, it is hereby declared that the powers of the governor in council shall extend to all matters coming within the classes of subjects hereinafter enumerated, that is to say:

(a) Censorship and the control and suppression of publications, writings, maps, plans, photographs, communications and means of communication;

(b) Arrest, detention, exclusion and deportation;

(c) Control of the harbours, ports and territorial waters of Canada and the movements of vessels;

(d) Transportation by land, air, or water and the control of the transport of persons and things;

(e) Trading, exportation, importation, production and manufacture;

(f) Appropriation, control, forfeiture and disposition of property and of the use thereof.

(2) All orders and regulations made under this section shall have the force of law, and shall be enforced in such manner and by such courts, officers and authorities as the governor in council may prescribe, and may be varied, extended or revoked by any subsequent order or regulation; but if any order or regulation is varied, extended or revoked, neither the previous operation thereof nor anything duly done thereunder, shall be affected thereby, nor shall any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired,