

assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, His Excellency was pleased to open the First Session of the Thirteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following Speech:

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate,
Gentlemen of the House of Commons.*

You have been summoned to the first session of a new Parliament in the midst of a world-wide struggle which vitally concerns the liberties, the institutions, and the destiny of our country, and of the whole world. Thus the responsibilities and duties imposed upon you are even graver and more far reaching than in the ordinary course of public affairs. Bearing with you a new mandate from the people, and animated by the unflinching spirit which has inspired them during the long and anxious years of effort and sacrifice, I am confident that you will bring to the discharge of your public duties, an unflinching resolve to sustain the high cause in which our country has already borne so splendid a part.

After nearly four years of war the issue still remains undecided. The effort which yet lies before us demands our sternest resolve, but we shall not shrink from it if our hearts are as firm and our courage as undaunted as those of our countrymen who hold our battle line beyond the seas. The Canadian Expeditionary Force still sustains its unbroken record of distinguished achievement to which it has notably contributed since the close of the last session.

Notwithstanding a greater delay than was anticipated in the operation of the Military Service Act, the necessary reinforcements to keep our forces at full strength have been provided and this purpose will be maintained in the future.

In order to extend the principle of the present Civil Service Act to the Outside Service, and thus to provide that all appointments to the Public Service shall be made upon the sole standard of merit, further enabling legislation will be necessary. In the meantime, the principle thus adopted has been carried into effect, as far as possible, by an Order in Council which will be placed before you.

My advisers are impressed with the necessity of a strong and progressive policy of immigration and colonization, accompanied by suitable provisions to induce settlement upon the land, to encourage increased agricultural production and to aid in the development of agricultural resources. In pursuance of this purpose, the Ministry of Immigration and Colonization has been established by Order in Council, and necessary legislation to confirm this action will be laid before you.

In connection with the demobilization of our Forces, my advisers recognize the urgent necessity of provision for the care and vocational training of returned soldiers. Organized effort to provide such training, to assist them in obtaining employment and to aid in establishing them in the activities of civil life is not only important but essential. A department of the Government for this purpose has been constituted and has been invested with necessary powers and duties.

Legislation to confirm this action will be submitted to you.

Measures which have been taken by Order in Council to prevent excessive profits in certain industries, to stimulate and increase the production of food and to encourage and develop the shipbuilding industry will be communicated to you, and any relevant legislation which may be found necessary will be submitted to you.

A Bill for extending the franchise to women, with suitable provisions respecting naturalization, will be submitted and commended to your consideration.

Your attention will also be invited to a Bill to consolidate and amend the Acts relating to railways, a Bill relating to Daylight Saving; Bills relating to taxation of war profits and of incomes, and other measures.

In order to insure the fullest co-operation with the Government of the United States and to assist in securing the most effective utilization of the resources of both countries for war purposes, a Canadian War Mission has been established at Washington, and a War Trade Board has been constituted at Ottawa.

In view of the need for conserving to the fullest extent all national resources during the war and in furtherance of provincial enactments, action has been taken under the War Measures Act, 1914, to prohibit the importation and manufacture of intoxicating beverages and to forbid the transportation thereof into any community where their sale is contrary to law.

My advisers having reached the conclusion that a complete registration of the manhood and womanhood of Canada above the age of sixteen years is not only important but essential under present conditions, the necessary authority has been provided under the War Measures Act, 1914.

The Orders in Council embodying the foregoing provisions will be laid before you.

The appalling disaster at Halifax resulting in the loss of many hundred lives, and the destruction of a considerable portion of the city, and of the adjacent town of Dartmouth, has evoked universal sympathy for those who have suffered. My advisers will submit to you proposals for relieving the distress and loss thus occasioned.

Notwithstanding the critical and trying conditions through which the country has passed during the last three years, the commercial, industrial and financial stability of Canada, has been well maintained. The volume of foreign trade greatly exceeds that attained during any corresponding period in previous years and the favourable balance of trade has also vastly increased.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the last and the estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted to you without delay and you will be asked to make the necessary financial provision for the effective conduct of the war.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate,

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

Notwithstanding disappointments in the Eastern theatre of war, there is no reason to doubt the ultimate triumph of our cause. The effort of the nations included within the British Commonwealth is still unabated and