

tuted in 1914 to care for those who served during the great war and it continued in operation until 1937. During the course of its operation it collected by voluntary contributions from the people of Canada approximately \$48,000,000. Immediately after the war, in 1919, the government of Canada contributed the sum of \$900,000 to permit the fund to carry on its operations during the immediate post-war period.

The patriotic fund also served as an agency for the government in the distribution of unemployment assistance. When it was wound up in 1937 there was an amount of approximately \$2,000 to its credit, which was handed over to the Canadian pension commission for distribution to ex-soldiers.

The bill which is presented is in exactly the same terms as that of 1914. I should like to call the attention of the house to the persons named as incorporators. It was considered advisable to name a certain number of persons who were in more or less of an official capacity, that is to say, to follow what might be termed an official list. The list comprises, first, His Excellency the Governor General, Lady Tweedsmuir, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Pensions and National Health, the leaders of other groups in the house, the lady members of the house and of the senate, the wife of His Honour the Speaker of the House, the wife of His Honour the Speaker of the Senate, the lieutenant governors of the various provinces, the leaders of government in the various provinces and the leaders of the opposition.

This committee of incorporators has power to add to its numbers and will doubtless appoint secretaries and the like. It was not thought advisable to go outside this official list at the moment, in order that there might be as little as possible in the way of discussion as to just whose names should appear.

Mr. MANION: Will the terms of incorporation be roughly the same terms as those of the previous incorporation?

Mr. POWER: Exactly the same terms, with the possible change of a word or two.

Mr. CHURCH: Will the municipalities be relieved of the heavy cost of this work?

Mr. POWER: If my hon. friend will read the bill he will get all the information.

Mr. CHURCH: Does the bill ask for voluntary contributions?

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

## EUROPEAN WAR

### PROCEDURE AS TO GIVING EFFECT TO DECISION OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING CANADIAN PARTICIPATION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I should like to make clear to the house the procedure which the government have in mind as to giving effect to the decision of parliament regarding Canadian participation in the war.

The adoption of the address in reply to the speech from the throne will be considered as approving not only the speech from the throne but approving the government's policy which I set out yesterday of immediate participation in the war.

If the address in reply to the speech from the throne is approved the government will therefore immediately take steps for the issue of a formal proclamation declaring the existence of a state of war between Canada and the German Reich.

Mr. A. H. MITCHELL (Medicine Hat): I wish to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) for the expedition with which in making this statement this afternoon he has replied to the letter which I delivered to him earlier in the day.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I thank my hon. friend both for what he has just said and also for his letter. At the same time I should like to inform him that the statement which I have just read had been prepared some considerable time before his letter was received.

### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

The house resumed from Friday, September 8, consideration of the motion of Mr. Hamilton for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. J. T. THORSON (Selkirk): I believe it to be my duty to take part in this debate by reason of certain views that I have held and expressed from time to time both inside this house and from the public platform, so that there may be no doubt whatsoever as to where I stand on this great issue. I do not consider that my personal stand in the matter is of any great importance, but I believe that I represent a large body of opinion in Canada which may perhaps be expressed in this house through the speech which I shall make.

In my opinion there can be no doubt whatsoever of the duty of Canada to participate