

Munro proceeds to say, at page 111, that the Governor General has therefore full legal power to exercise the prerogative rights of summoning or dissolving Parliament, and that in exercising these powers he follows closely the practice adopted by the Crown in England.

In England, under the Meeting of Parliament Act, 1870 (33 & 34 Vict., Cap. 81), section 2, the Crown has statutory power during any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament to issue a proclamation, with the advice of the Privy Council, declaring that the two Houses shall meet on a day named in the proclamation, but not less than six days from the day of the date of such proclamation, (Halsbury, Vol. 21, p. 699).

The power to summon is conferred by the British North America Act, and therefore, as pointed out by Keith (Responsible Government in the Dominions, Vol. 1, p. 382), "the repetition of the letters patent is unnecessary".

The following quotation from Todd's Parliamentary Government in England, Vol. I, Second Edition, pages 386-387, may be of interest:-

"From the supremacy of the sovereign in a constitutional monarchy, it necessarily follows that while regular meetings of Parliament are indispensable, the legal existence of this high court results altogether from the exercise of the royal prerogative. It is summoned, by virtue of the king's writ, to meet for despatch of business, at whatsoever time or place he may please to direct. The necessary interval between the date of summons by royal proclamation and the meeting of Parliament was formerly fourteen days, but by a recent statute, it has been reduced to six days.

.....

Parliament can only commence its deliberations at the time appointed by the king, and cannot continue them any longer than he may allow."

.....

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 201, pages C139651-C140076)

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