

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In bringing to a close a session in which, for the first time, the King has been present in person in the Parliament of Canada, I desire to express the gratification of my Government at the universal and heartfelt rejoicing of a united people who are being honoured by the visit of their Sovereign.

I wish, at the same time, to thank you for the attention you have given to the many problems which Canada, like other countries, faces in these critical times.

It was a source of satisfaction to my Government that His Majesty was able to give the Royal Assent in person to the Bill respecting the Canada-United States trade agreement. This agreement and the other measures which have been enacted to meet exceptional conditions in the basic industries, and to improve marketing facilities, will be of direct advantage to the primary producers in all parts of the Dominion, and will be reflected in increased trade and employment.

Provision has been made for the establishment of a Central Mortgage Bank with the object of easing the burden of debt upon farmers and home-owners.

I am gratified that, by the extension of the youth training programme, provision has been made to apply the strength and enthusiasm of youth to the conservation and development of our great forest resources.

The insecurity of the world to-day has made necessary increased provision for national defence.

It is my hope that the desire for peace, which lies so close to the hearts of the peoples of all countries, will yet serve to avert international strife, and to restore among nations co-operation, understanding, and good will.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public service.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

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In taking leave of you at this time, I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may rest upon your labours.