

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 28, 1952

The Parliament of Canada having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the dispatch of business.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, C.H., having this morning been sworn in as Governor General of Canada, would arrive at the main entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3 p.m., and, when it had been signified that all was in readiness, would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Sixth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Sixth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I meet you at a time when the people of Canada, in common with the other peoples of the commonwealth, mourn the loss of our late sovereign, King George VI. His late Majesty was greatly loved by all his subjects in Canada who have vivid recollections of His visit to this country and of His many associations with his Canadian people. In no part of the commonwealth has the sense of personal loss been more deeply felt than in our country. I join with you in extending deepest sympathy in their bereavement to Her Majesty the Queen, to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, to Queen Mary, to Princess Margaret and all the members of the Royal Family.

The people of Canada have already had an opportunity of meeting their new sovereign. In the course of her visit to our country a few months ago Her Majesty made a deep and lasting impression on her Canadian subjects. As the Queen assumes her heavy responsibilities she is assured of the loyalty and devotion of the Canadian people in full measure.

I am deeply sensible of the great honour of having been appointed by His late Majesty as his personal representative in my native land. As I take up my duties as the representative of the Queen, I assure you of the pleasure with which I look forward to our association in Parliament and I deem it a privilege to be connected with you in your labours for the welfare and happiness of the Canadian people.

The situation throughout the world continues to cause concern and to require my ministers to devote a great deal of attention to our external affairs. The government remains convinced that the nations of the free world must continue to increase their combined strength, in order to ensure lasting peace and security by the effective discouragement of aggression.

In Korea it has not yet been possible to bring about an armistice, but negotiations with this end in view are still going on. Canadian forces together with their comrades from other of the United Nations are giving distinguished service in that unhappy land.

A formation from the Canadian army now forms an effective part of the integrated force of the north Atlantic alliance in Europe, and further elements of the Royal Canadian Air Force are progressively being despatched overseas. Amendments to legislation relating to our armed forces will be submitted for your approval.

Your approval will also be sought for a further Canadian contribution to the Colombo plan and for technical assistance to under-developed areas.

A Japanese peace treaty has been signed and will be submitted for your consideration.

At home our economy remains very buoyant. External trade and capital investment have reached record levels. Generally speaking employment remains at a high level. Inflationary pressures are still being strongly felt and require the maintenance of anti-inflationary measures.

Unfortunately, foot and mouth disease has appeared in cattle in a small area in Saskatchewan. Immediate steps have been taken to limit the affected area, eradicate the disease and meet the situation resulting from the embargo under United States law on exports of live stock and meat to that country.

A board of engineers has been established to prepare an application for submission to the International Joint Commission concerning the development of hydro-electric power in the international section of the St. Lawrence river.

As a measure designed to assist in the development of our natural resources you will be asked to consider legislation to enable the Canadian National Railways to construct a branch line between Terrace and Kitimat in British Columbia.

You will be asked to consider legislation to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1946, and the Veterans Benefit Act, 1951.