

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

It affords me much pleasure to meet you at the commencement of another session of parliament.

The people of Canada, in common with the peoples of the other parts of the British commonwealth of nations, learned with deep concern of the decision of His Majesty King Edward the Eighth to renounce the throne for himself and his descendants. In accordance with the Statute of Westminster, steps were immediately taken to set forth the request and consent of Canada to the enactment of legislation by the parliament at Westminster for the purpose of giving effect to His Majesty's instrument of abdication and providing for the succession to the throne. In accordance with the same statute, the assent of the parliament of Canada will be sought to the alteration in the law touching the succession.

You will be invited to adopt a resolution expressive of the loyalty of the members of both houses of parliament to His Majesty King George the Sixth.

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to set the twelfth of May as the date for his coronation. Provision will be recommended for the appropriate representation of Canada at the coronation ceremonies.

An imperial conference will be held in London, beginning in May of this year, for the consideration of questions of interest to the various members of the British commonwealth.

The international situation continues to give much ground for anxiety. The September assembly of the League of Nations gave earnest consideration to the bearing of recent developments upon the activities of the league, and a committee was appointed, on which Canada is represented, to consider the question of the application of the principles of the covenant.

Happily, international relations on this continent, and conditions in Canada, present a striking contrast to those of many other countries.

The visit of the President of the United States to Canada in July last was a much appreciated expression of international friendliness and good-will.

The year just closed has witnessed a steady improvement in conditions throughout Canada, and has borne testimony to the beneficial effects of the fiscal policies of the administration, and of other methods employed to achieve national recovery. A very definite restoration of confidence is in itself an augury of the continuance of recovery.

A marked increase in trade and commerce has been accompanied by a noticeable improvement in the general economic position. Outstanding features of this improvement have been an expansion of markets, a revival of industry,

an increase in employment, ascending government revenues, and upward trends in wages and prices. In the primary industries improvement has been especially noteworthy.

There has been a pronounced increase in the volume of farm products exported. It is the intention of the government to continue a vigorous promotion of the sale of agricultural products at home and abroad.

The government's efforts to expand Canada's trade have been unremitting. Since the last session of parliament ministers of the crown have visited Great Britain and other countries, to participate personally in the negotiation of trade agreements. At the present time, the Minister of Trade and Commerce is on the way to Australia and New Zealand to discuss the revision of existing agreements.

You will be pleased to learn that an agreement in principle has been reached between His Majesty's governments in the United Kingdom and Canada with respect to a new trade agreement. The agreement itself will be submitted for your approval during the present session.

With the assistance and cooperation of the National Employment Commission, progress has been made in coping with unemployment and relief. Relief camps were closed on July 1. A registration of unemployed persons on relief has been completed. Dominion-provincial agreements have been entered into respecting a farm employment plan, under the terms of which work has been provided for thousands of single homeless men. A home improvement plan has been put into operation. Despite these measures, however, and the substantial increase of employment, the provision for large numbers still on relief remains a foremost problem.

Measures will be taken, in cooperation with the provinces, to assist in the establishment of unemployed young people.

A comprehensive program to meet the serious conditions created by widespread and intense drought in western Canada was adopted during the summer months.

The amalgamation and consolidation of certain branches of the public service, for which provision was made at the last session, have been effected. The board of governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the board of directors of the Canadian National Railways have been appointed and have entered upon their duties. Through the purchase of stock and the appointment of directors, authorized by parliament, the government has assumed a predominant interest in the ownership, and an effective control of the Bank of Canada.

Measures will be introduced to provide for the establishment of a trans-Canada air service; to extend the authority of the board of railway commissioners, and to revise the capital structure of the Canadian National Railways. Among other proposed legislative enactments to which your attention will be invited, will be bills to facilitate the making of loans for the repair and improvement of rural and urban homes; to amend and consolidate the acts which relate to combines in trade and industry, and to provide for pensions to the blind at a lower age than seventy years. A measure will also