

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make financial provision for expenditure necessitated by the existing state of war.

The estimates for the current fiscal year will be submitted to you without delay.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

Since the last session of parliament, a much beloved Governor General has passed from our midst. In the death of Lord Tweedsmuir, Canada mourns one whose character and achievements had endeared him to our people; the British commonwealth has lost a wise and understanding counsellor, and the fellowship of writers a gifted interpreter of the graces and humanities of English literature. I join with you in the expression to Lady Tweedsmuir and the members of her family of the deep sympathy of the Canadian people.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint the Earl of Athlone as His Representative in succession to the late Lord Tweedsmuir. The sense of duty and the public services which have distinguished the lives of the Governor General designate and the Princess Alice ensure for His Excellency and Her Royal Highness an eager and cordial welcome to Canada.

As you assume, in these dark and difficult days, the grave responsibilities with which you have been entrusted by the Canadian people, may your resolution be sustained by the knowledge that it is the liberties of all free peoples that you are helping to preserve. Unless the evil powers, which threaten the very existence of freedom, are vanquished, the world itself will inevitably be reduced to a state of international anarchy.

I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That the order for the consideration of the motion for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, have precedence over all other business, except introduction of bills, until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house, under standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre), Casgrain, Casselman (Grenville-Dundas), Taylor and Douglas (Weyburn).

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Administrator:

The Administrator transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources, the Right Honourable Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice, the Honourable J. L. Ralston, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable J. L. Ilesley, Minister of National Revenue, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled An Act Respecting the House of Commons.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION TABLED

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I table herewith the report of the royal commission on dominion-provincial relations. The report is contained in three large printed volumes. There are in addition a very large number of volumes which constitute the appendices.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Do the appendices contain the evidence?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am sorry I cannot answer that question. I may tell my hon. friend the leader of the opposition that as yet I have not had an opportunity of opening the report to see what is in it, let alone the appendices; but I will give him the information later.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I hope it does not turn out to be just another royal commission.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The report is tabled in both English and French. It was received on the tenth of this month, and at the time of its receipt I sent copies to members of the press gallery of this house so that they might have an opportunity of preparing in advance the resumes which they might wish to send to their newspapers throughout the country. I also had copies of the report and the appendices sent to the premiers of the several provinces so that they would be received this morning, before the tabling of the report in this house this afternoon.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Have a sufficient number of copies of the report of the royal commission been printed so that at least each member of parliament will have a copy of this historic document?