

seat therein, take and subscribe before Our Governor General or some person authorized by him, the Oath of Allegiance contained in the fifth schedule to the said Act, and also the Declaration of Qualification contained in the said schedule.

And Whereas it appears to Us expedient to appoint Leslie Clare Moyer, Esquire, D.S.O., K.C., of the City of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario, Clerk of the Senate of Canada, known and designated as the Clerk of the Parliaments, to be a Commissioner to administer the Oath of Allegiance to the Members of the Senate of Canada, and also to take and receive their Declarations of Qualification.

Now therefore know ye that confiding in the loyalty, integrity and ability of the said Leslie Clare Moyer, We of Our certain knowledge and mere motion and by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada do by these Presents assign, constitute and appoint the said Leslie Clare Moyer to be a Commissioner to administer to the Members of the Senate of Canada the Oath of Allegiance, and to take their Declarations of Qualification, so required as aforesaid, and to receive their subscriptions to such Oath and Declaration.

To have, hold and exercise the said office of Commisisoner as aforesaid and the power and authority hereinbefore mentioned unto the said Leslie Clare Moyer during Our pleasurè.

In Testimony Whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.

Witness: Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved John, Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, a Member of Our Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Member of Our Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Our Dominion of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, this sixth day of January in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine and in the third year of Our Rèign.

By Command,

W. P. J. O'MEARA,
Acting Under Secretary of State.

Ordered, That the same be placed upon the Journals.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After a while, His Excellency the Governor General having come, and being seated on the Throne,—

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that,—

It is His Excellency the Governor General's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the fourth Session of the eighteenth Parliament by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The announcement that Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth have graciously decided to visit Canada in the months of May and June has been received with rejoicing throughout the Dominion. The honour of welcoming their King and Queen, in person, on their own soil, is a privilege which will be shared with enthusiasm and pride by all His Majesty's Canadian subjects. The visit will be the first paid by the reigning Sovereign to any of His self-governing Dominions. It will be the first time a British King and Queen have been in North America. It is deeply gratifying that Their Majesties' tour will embrace all the provinces of Canada.

The official visit paid Canada in August last by the President of the United States was the occasion of unusually warm demonstrations of friendship and understanding upon both sides of our common border. It is particularly pleasing to the citizens of our country that the King and Queen have found it possible to accept the invitation of the President to visit the United States before the conclusion of their Canadian tour.

My ministers have found it necessary to give anxious and continuous consideration to developments in the international situation and their effects upon Canada. Our own relations with other countries continue friendly, but the aggressive policies actively pursued in other continents have inevitably had a disturbing effect upon every part of the world.

The Government shared in the general sense of relief that the appalling disaster of war, which threatened Europe during the month of September last, was averted, and in the recognition which that crisis manifested of the widespread will of the peoples for peace. They are hopeful that the efforts now being made to find a solution for the specific differences which are causing friction will meet with success. They recognize, nevertheless, that time is required for these forces to work, and that the possibility of further tension in the meantime must be faced. In this situation, the Government have considered that the uncertainties of the future, and the conditions of modern warfare, make it imperative that Canada's defences be materially strengthened.

Two years ago, the appropriations for defence were substantially increased, and a beginning made on a program of modernization to safeguard the country from the dangers of attack. The Government intend to pursue this policy vigorously, and to propose to Parliament that the program of defence should be further augmented, and that particular emphasis should be laid upon air defence.

Legislation will be introduced to establish a Defence Purchasing Board with power to purchase equipment for the defence services and to ensure that, where private manufacture is necessary, profits in connection with such are fair and reasonable, and that the public interest is protected.

While taking the measures necessary to assure the maintenance of our national integrity against the possibility of external aggression, the Government have sought in positive ways to strengthen the mutual interests which unite Canada in friendly relations with other countries.

You will be asked to approve the Trade Agreement with the United States of America, signed at Washington on November the 17th, 1938. This agreement fulfils the hope expressed in the Speech from the Throne, last year, for an agreement with the United States, which would confirm and enlarge the advantages of the agreement concluded in 1935.

Simultaneously with the conclusion of the new agreement between Canada and the United States, a far-reaching agreement was effected between the United States and the United Kingdom. Taken together, the agreements constitute a constructive contribution toward a betterment of world conditions. It is deeply gratifying to the Government that in their efforts to increase, and to ensure over a longer period of time, the advantages to Canadian producers and consumers secured in earlier agreements, they were able, at the same time, to further the ends of international good-will.

The Canada-United States agreements have involved, in addition to the wider markets secured for Canadian products, a thorough-going revision of the Canadian tariff structure, and a reduction of taxes on trade much greater than that made by any previous Parliament, or by any other country in recent years.

Notice has been given, effective December 31, 1939, terminating the Canada-West Indies Agreement concluded in 1925. My ministers hope that negotiations will shortly be entered upon leading to a new agreement which will be mutually beneficial to the West Indian Colonies and to Canada. In connection therewith the Tariff Board has been directed to make a careful examination of the sugar preferences and duties.

Unemployment in Canada continues to receive the unremitting attention of local, provincial and federal authorities. Having regard to the existing division of powers and obligations under the British North America Act, responsibility for unemployment and the solution of its problems is necessarily divided. There has been an increasing assumption of obligations on the part of the Federal Government.

Employment in war industry and the regimentation of masses of men for purposes of war have, to appearances, afforded in some countries a solution of their problem of unemployment. In Canada other methods of dealing with the problem have been followed.

The Dominion Government have taken active measures to stimulate private employment through Home Improvement Plan, the National Housing Act, and the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act. Under these measures certain local taxes have been assumed, and loans made to individuals, organizations and municipalities. The sales tax has been eliminated on important building materials. Special aid has been given to the mining industry by subventions, tax exemptions and improved transportation facilities. At the same time, direct employment has been increased through a substantial expansion of federal public works, and through assistance given to the provinces in the construction of highways, for land settlement, for special projects for farm employment and for forest conservation.

Provision has also been made by the Dominion Government for grants-in-aid to the provinces to assist in the care of those suffering from unemployment and agricultural distress.

The various measures adopted to stimulate employment and afford relief to those in need have operated most successfully in those provinces which have supported them with full co-operation.

In Canada, the problem of unemployment has been aggravated in recent years by recurrent crop failures in the Western provinces, and by the serious business recession experienced in the last year in other parts of the world. The intensification of the problem has set forth in bold relief the obstacles which the existing division of constitutional authority places in the way of a solution.

The report of the Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations will be presented to Parliament in the course of the present session. In accordance with the purpose for which the Commission was instituted, its report will provide the basis for, and the material essential to the deliberations of a National Conference, at which, among the important subjects to be dealt with, will be the

problem of unemployment and social services generally. The Government have not altered their view that a national unemployment insurance scheme is essential to a permanent policy of meeting the problem of unemployment.

My ministers recognize that the plight of those who are still unemployed cannot await necessary constitutional amendments, nor the summoning of any conferences. They are prepared, therefore, notwithstanding constitutional impediments to effective action, to join with the provinces in a further determined effort to meet the immediate situation.

To this end it is proposed further to expand the Government's long range program of public undertakings. In pursuance of the policy of the active encouragement of employment, it is also proposed to undertake, with provincial co-operation, to provide assistance to municipalities which, as an alternative to the provision of direct relief, desire to expand their normal programs of civic improvements.

As a means of providing an opportunity for useful work and national service to single unemployed men, the assistance given to forest conservation will be extended to include other work of national importance.

The beneficial results of the Youth Training program, have demonstrated the wisdom of this experiment, and a measure will be introduced to increase its efficiency and expand its usefulness.

Notwithstanding the embarrassments and handicaps encountered in coping with the problem of unemployment, it is gratifying to be able to record that, during the past year, there has been a material reduction in the number of those receiving agricultural aid, and a reduction also in the total number of those receiving public assistance due to unemployment and agricultural distress. At the beginning of the present winter the number of those receiving such public assistance was almost forty per cent less than two years ago. Over the same period the number of persons actually in employment has largely increased.

Continuous improvement in the position of the fishing industry as a whole has been reflected in annual increases for the past few years in the aggregate amounts received by the fishermen from their work. The Department of Fisheries, have given, and will continue to give, increased attention to the problem of marketing. The Government have also assisted fishermen substantially through direct aid.

In order to avert economic disaster to a large part of our population, my Ministers, under the terms of the Wheat Board Act, approved, for the current crop year, an initial payment for wheat as recommended by the Board.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Plan will be continued, the experience of the past year having demonstrated its efficacy in improving the agricultural areas of the West.

Bills will be introduced to regulate Grain Exchanges along the lines laid down in the Report of the Royal Commission on Grain Marketing, to revise the Canada Grain Act, and to assist further in the marketing of farm products.

The Trans-Canada Airways will shortly provide a passenger service, in addition to the air mail and air express services already in operation. Preparations for the inauguration of the Transatlantic Air Service are being actively continued in collaboration with the Governments of the United Kingdom and of Ireland.

In order to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission to Investigate the Penal System of Canada, a Bill to appoint a commission to administer the penitentiaries will be again introduced.

Other legislative proposals will be laid before you and proceeded with as time and opportunity offer.

Members of the House of Commons:

The estimates for the Public Service, together with the Public Accounts, will be laid before you.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In this critical time of the world's affairs, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator Dandurand presented to the Senate a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read the first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General had been left in his hands.

The same was read by the Honourable the Speaker.

On motion, it was—

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Tuesday, next.

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate the Report of the Librarian, for the year 1938.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows:—

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Report of the Librarian for 1938

To the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate:

The General Librarian of Parliament has the honour to submit the Report on the Library for 1938.

Work on the Supplementary Catalogue of books donated and purchased during 1938 has been steadily pushed and the Catalogue will be issued at an earlier date than usual.

The undersigned records with regret the passing of the Honourable Martin Burrell, P.C., LL.D., Parliamentary Librarian, former Minister of Agriculture and holder of three other portfolios in the Cabinet of Sir Robert Borden. Mr. Burrell died at his residence on the 20th March last, after a short illness. He was in his eightieth year. Mr. Burrell was eminent as a statesman, a man of letters, and an eloquent and witty speaker. His death constitutes a loss to the whole Dominion, particularly to those who were in close contact with him. When he retired from political life in 1920 he became Parliamentary Librarian. Surrounded by books he loved so well, he found in that position the greatest pleasure in his life of service. He was a warm friend, a delightful companion, a most interesting conversationalist, an author of distinction, an excellent speaker, an amusing and interesting raconteur and a great music lover. Kindly and courteous, he will be long remembered by the staff of the Parliamentary Library.

On October 1 last Mr. Albert Beaudry, French Senior Library Assistant, was retired on superannuation. Mr. Beaudry had done honourable and useful service in the Library for fifty-one years. The Civil Service Commission has appointed to the vacant position Mr. E. E. Trudel who has been a Library Assistant since 1920.