

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 Cousin, Harold Rupert Leofric George, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of Our Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Companion of Our Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Military Cross, Field Marshal in Our Army, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

AT OUR GOVERNMENT HOUSE, in Our City of Ottawa, Canada, this twenty-fifth day of January, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty and in the fourteenth year of Our Reign.

By Command,

F. GORDON BRADLEY,
Secretary of State of Canada.

Ordered, That the same be placed upon the Journals.

The Honourable Senator Burke came to the Table and took and subscribed the Oath prescribed by law, which was administered by the Clerk of the Senate, the Commissioner appointed for that purpose, and took his seat as a Member of the Senate.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that the Honourable Senator Burke had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required of him by *The British North America Act, 1867*, in the presence of the Clerk of the Senate, the Commissioner appointed to receive and witness the same.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Senator Robertson, it was—

Ordered, That the Senate do now adjourn until half-past two o'clock this afternoon.

SECOND SITTING

Pursuant to Order, the Senate resumed at half-past two o'clock.

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 pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The conference with representatives of the provincial governments forecast in my speech closing your last session was held in January. This conference marked a promising beginning in working out a satisfactory procedure for making within Canada whatever amendments to the constitution may from time to time be required. Agreement was reached on certain general principles and a continuing committee was established to further the work of the conference.

The governments of all the provinces have also been invited to participate in a general conference between the federal and provincial governments early next autumn to consider other matters of mutual concern. The several provincial authorities have been asked to make suggestions as to the principal topics they will wish to have discussed at this conference.

In the meantime negotiations are proceeding with the provincial governments for the implementation of the legislation adopted at your last session respecting housing, a transcontinental highway and forest conservation.

The National Health Programme has been extended to the Province of Newfoundland and further satisfactory progress has been made, in co-operation with the provinces generally, in the development of more adequate health facilities and services.

In the international sphere, our country continues to give full support to the Charter of the United Nations. A Canadian delegation is now attending a session of the Economic and Social Council to which Canada was elected at the last session of the General Assembly.

The recent conference in Ceylon of the Foreign Ministers of the nations of the Commonwealth demonstrated that there is a continuing and substantial community of outlook among the nations of the Commonwealth both in the East and the West in their approach to current problems of foreign affairs.

The measures for the preservation of peace and the restoration and maintenance of prosperity contemplated by the North Atlantic Treaty are being devised and applied as expeditiously as circumstances permit. The whole-hearted co-operation of all the signatories to the Treaty is encouraging evidence of their determination to deter aggression by a combination of actual and potential strength calculated to remove the possibility of successful aggression.

The cold war nevertheless still continues and imposes on all the free nations heavy burdens for the provision of defence forces and modern armaments. Preparedness to meet any sudden onslaught is essential and the means must be provided. But the free nations also face a test of endurance, and our staying power could be endangered by attempting to achieve complete preparedness at the expense of our adaptability to new developments in weapons and techniques of warfare or the efficiency of our social and industrial systems.

In the development of Canada's defence forces, constant attention is being given to the best use of our resources, to the encouragement of joint research and experimental development and to the co-ordination of Canadian efforts with those of the other signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty.

The measure to consolidate existing legislation respecting our defence forces and to provide for a purely Canadian disciplinary code to be made applicable to all the forces will be re-introduced.

Employment and prosperity remain at a high level in Canada. The prospects are good for continued private investment in construction and capital development throughout the present year. The demand for consumer goods of all kinds continues to be strong. However, seasonal and local factors have given rise to a significant amount of temporary regional unemployment during the past few months and the security provisions established under unemployment insurance legislation have been called upon to meet the first important test since they were brought into effect.

Although a high proportion of persons temporarily unemployed are actually in receipt of Unemployment Insurance benefits, you will be asked to give consideration to a Bill to widen the scope and extend the benefits of Unemployment Insurance.

Circumstances outside Canada have been responsible for some downward adjustment in the price of farm products. Measures have already been taken to reduce the impact of these adjustments. In order to provide authority for continuing price support to that end for the primary products of our farms and fisheries, you will be asked to amend the Agricultural Products Act, the Agricultural Prices Support Act and the Fisheries Prices Support Act.

Within the past year, the International Wheat Agreement has been brought into operation. In view of Canada's participation in that Agreement and the recent decision to market coarse grains through the Canadian Wheat Board, you will also be asked to consider a measure to renew the existing powers of the Board.

During the past year Canadian exports were maintained at close to record levels, but continued difficulties arising out of the world-wide dollar shortage have resulted recently in reduced purchases of a number of our export products.

Canadian representatives continue to participate actively in co-ordinated international efforts to bring about improvement in the underlying conditions of world trade. The government is also pursuing policies designed to develop new markets for our products and to assist overseas customers to increase Canadian earnings. My Ministers will continue their efforts to secure reductions in trade barriers. To this end preparations are actively under way for further multilateral trade negotiations later in the present year.

While prevailing exchange difficulties will require continued readjustments, we have reason to expect that our export trade as a whole will remain at a high level during the present year.

You will be asked to give consideration to the legislation required to implement the policy concerning the control and the orderly decontrol of rents announced by the government during your last session.

A measure will be introduced to amend the Canada Shipping Act to incorporate changes suggested by the Safety of Life at Sea Convention of 1948 and to define duties of Canadian Consuls and conditions of registration in Canada of Canadian ships.

You will be asked to consider a Bill for the revision of the Indian Act.

A Bill will be submitted to substitute a uniform and systematic procedure for existing legislation concerning publication and tabling in Parliament of regulations and orders made by the Governor in Council or Ministers or other agents of the Crown in the exercise of powers conferred by statute.

Bills will be introduced to implement the policies announced at the last session respecting prize money; the inclusion of veterans of British and allied forces within the scope of the War Veterans Allowance Act; and grants to municipalities in which there is an exceptional concentration of federal property.

Other measures requiring your consideration will include Bills to amend the Militia Pension Act; the Criminal Code; the Government Annuities Act; the Post Office Act; the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act; the Currency Act; the Trust Companies Act; the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, 1932; the Foreign Insurance Companies Act, 1932; the Customs Act; the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act; and the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make provision for all essential services for the next fiscal year.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I pray that Divine Providence may bless your deliberations.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator Hugessen, for the Honourable Senator Robertson, 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.