

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,

Their Speaker, the Honourable Gaspard Fauteux, said:—

May it please Your Excellency,—

The House of Commons has elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable interpretation.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate answered:—

Mr. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to His Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Excellency the Governor General was then 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:*

You will rejoice with me that the opening of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada comes at the moment of the victorious conclusion of the war.

It is just six years ago that Parliament met in special session in anticipation of a declaration of war. Since that time, war has been waged continuously first against Germany, later also against Italy and Japan. From the very beginning, the resources of Canada and the utmost efforts of our people were committed to the fight for freedom and to the winning of victory.

One by one, the aggressor nations and their satellite states have suffered total defeat by the armed forces of the United Nations. All have been compelled to surrender unconditionally. The terms of surrender were signed by Italy on September the 8th, 1943; by Germany, on May the 8th of the present year; and by Japan, on the eve of the present week. The month of August witnessed

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the devastating use of the atomic bomb against Japanese cities, and the entry of the U.S.S.R. into war against Japan. Thus the world encircling conflict, the most terrible of wars in human history, was brought to its close. Not only has victory been complete, it has been won over strongly organized and sinister forces working in combination in an attempt at world conquest and domination.

As you assemble at the opening of a new Parliament, I join with you in giving humble and grateful thanks to Divine Providence for the deliverance which His mercy has vouchsafed to the peoples of our own and other lands. We of this day and generation have been the witnesses of a mighty manifestation of the workings of the moral law which inexorably connects wrong-doing with retribution. It is as applicable to nations as to men.

In this titanic conflict between the forces of good and evil, it has been ours to behold the triumph of Right and Justice. In this victory, we find the assurance of the ultimate triumph of Righteousness as we seek to bring into being a new order founded upon world security and social justice.

The victory over Nazi and Fascist tyranny in Europe and over Japanese militarism in Asia has been bought at a great price. As the appalling extent of the power of the forces of aggression and tyranny was revealed, the free peoples of the world slowly began to realize what they owe to the Allied nations who first opposed the aggressors. To their heroic resistance and to the armed might of all the United Nations, Humanity owes not only its freedom, but everything which free men value and cherish most.

Our thoughts at this time are especially of the members of Canada's forces who have given their lives that victory might be ours and not our enemies'. The whole nation reverently bows its head in tribute to their sacrifice. At this hour, our hearts share, in special measure, the hopes and expectations of those who yearn for the return of their loved ones, now liberated after three and a half years in Japanese prison camps. The deep sympathy of Canada is with all who have been bereaved, and with those who have suffered impairment of body or mind, imprisonment, privation or want.

It will be for history to record the magnitude of Canada's contribution in this global conflict. We rejoice that our armed forces have achieved so much in helping to defend and liberate nations to whose past and present our own is so closely akin. Our country will ever remember with pride the heroic exploits of Canada's fighting men and merchant seamen.

We pay tribute as well to the men and women without whose loyal and steady work on the farms, in forests, mines and fisheries, in factories, workshops and offices, in hospitals and homes, and in transport and other services, victory could not have been achieved. Canada's great contribution to victory has been made possible by the unbroken partnership of her warriors and her workers.

To all who have contributed by service and sacrifice to victory, I would, in the name of Parliament express our country's gratitude.

So far as the future could be foreseen, My Ministers had taken steps to see that Canada was prepared to meet the very difficult situations which would arise when victory had been won. Under the authority of Parliament, relief was provided to assist in feeding, clothing and housing destitute populations, and in rehabilitating areas devastated by enemy action in Europe. Additional measures to assist in meeting these and other imperative needs will be submitted for your consideration.

Preparations for the demobilization, rehabilitation and re-establishment in civil life of the men and women in the armed forces were well under way when Germany surrendered. The same is true of measures for the reconversion of the economic life of our country from a wartime to a peacetime basis, and for the maintenance of a high level of employment and national income. The plans thus developed to meet the requirements of the period of transition are now being put into full operation.

In the building of a new world order, My Ministers are determined to seek above all else the promotion of peace, work and health in domestic and international relations. To further these great objectives, the government has received a definite mandate from the people of Canada.

The Charter of the United Nations which was signed by the representatives of the fifty nations who took part in the Conference at San Francisco will be submitted for your approval. The Charter expresses their determination to maintain peace in accordance with justice and respect for human rights, and to promote the welfare of all peoples by international co-operation.

To the promotion of national well-being, co-operation and good-will between the Dominion and provincial governments are as essential as these attitudes, between nations, are to the maintenance of world peace and international prosperity. You will be pleased to know that at the Dominion-Provincial Conference held at Ottawa during August, a successful beginning was made in the consideration of proposals designed to contribute to the maintenance of a high level of employment and national income, and to the establishment of nation-wide social security. It is the earnest hope of My Ministers that, when the Conference resumes its deliberations, agreement may be speedily reached which will place the Dominion and all the provinces in a financial position to discharge effectively their several responsibilities. Such agreements would make possible a re-organization of the Dominion tax structure on a simpler, more equitable basis, conducive to the expansion of enterprise and employment.

Every effort is being put forth to ensure the return to Canada as rapidly as military commitments and transportation facilities will permit, of our armed forces serving abroad, and to accelerate the orderly release of men and women from the forces.

Through the joint efforts of the government, industry and labour, the conversion of war industries to civilian production is taking place with a minimum of delay and inconvenience.

It is the intention of the government to abolish war restrictions in progressive steps as rapidly as that can be accomplished without occasioning inflation or other economic disturbances. Such controls as are essential to the welfare of our people will be continued for as long as they are necessary.

You will be asked to approve a measure to extend certain specified emergency powers to meet emergency conditions in the period of reconstruction.

The maintenance of long-term markets for our primary industries is receiving close attention. The continuing need for foodstuffs both at home and abroad will ensure, for some time to come, a heavy demand for the products of our farms and fisheries.

The government is continuing its efforts to stimulate the restoration and expansion of external trade. Measures to this end will be submitted for your approval.

In furtherance of stable international exchanges and adequate provision for international credit, you will be asked to approve a measure to provide for

Canadian participation in the International Monetary Fund and the Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The provision of houses is being pressed forward as rapidly as the supply of materials and labour will permit. Plans already in operation provide for the expansion of home construction to keep pace with increases in the output of building supplies. Priority is being given to houses for war veterans and their dependents.

Plans for the establishment of a national minimum of social security and human welfare are being advanced as rapidly as possible. Unemployment insurance, floors under farm and fish prices, and family allowances are now in force. The government's proposals for the promotion of health and welfare made to the Dominion-Provincial Conference include plans for a nation-wide system of health insurance and preventive medicine, and for old age pensions on a more generous basis.

Other measures demanding your consideration will include a consolidation, as a Veterans' Charter, of the various orders-in-council relating to the care, rehabilitation and re-establishment of war veterans; a bill to repeal the act establishing the Department of National War Services; a bill to merge the Department of Munitions and Supply and the Department of Reconstruction into a single Department of Reconstruction and Supply. The army and the navy have already been placed under the jurisdiction of one Minister of National Defence. A further consolidation of all defence services under one Minister of the Crown will be made in due course.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

You will be asked to make financial provision for all essential services, also to meet expenditures arising out of the war, and for the purposes of reconstruction. My Ministers' proposals with respect to taxation measures will be disclosed in the budget.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

My Ministers believe that the position attained by our country among the nations of the world, makes it desirable that Canada, like the other nations of the British Commonwealth, should possess a distinctive national flag. You will be asked to appoint a Select Committee of Members of both Houses of Parliament to consider a suitable design for a Canadian flag.

The government has directed that, pending approval by Parliament of a particular design, the Canadian Red Ensign which was the flag carried into battle by the Canadian army, and which was flown from the Peace Tower on V-E Day and V-J Day as a tribute to the valour of our armed forces and to Canada's achievements in war, may be displayed wherever place or occasion makes it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian flag.

The government also considers that it is advisable to revise and clarify the definition of Canadian citizenship, and to bring the legislation respecting national status, naturalization and immigration into conformity with the definition of citizenship. You will be asked to approve the required measures.

The government has also been giving consideration to the most suitable manner in which to commemorate, in the Capital of Canada, the service and sacrifice of Canadians in the war just ended. In the past, the sacrifice of human life in war has most frequently been commemorated in monuments of bronze and stone. Such a memorial our Capital already has. My Ministers are of the opinion that something more expressive of the vision of a new world order

would, at this time, be most appropriate. They believe that this vision would best find expression in the planned development and beautification of the National Capital and its surrounding area as a National Memorial. Steps have already been taken to plan the development of the city and region of Ottawa on both sides of the Ottawa river. As plans are formulated, specific proposals will from time to time, be submitted to Parliament for consideration.

On the recommendation of the Government of Canada, His Majesty the King has been pleased to select Field Marshal the Honourable Sir Harold Alexander as My Successor as His Representative in Canada. Field Marshal Alexander's duties will not permit of his assumption of office until early in the new year. Meanwhile Her Royal Highness Princess Alice and I will pay a short visit to the United Kingdom, returning to Canada for a brief stay before our official departure.

As you take up your heavy responsibilities in these difficult days of reconstruction, I pray that Almighty God may guide and bless your deliberations. May you be inspired by the vision of the better future for Humanity which it is now within the power of the United Nations to create.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator Copp, 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.

On motion, it was—

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

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Senator Copp, for the Honourable Senator Robertson, it was—

Ordered, That all the Senators present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Senator Copp, for the Honourable Senator Robertson, it was—

Ordered, That pursuant to Rule 77 the following Senators, to wit: The Honourable Senators Ballantyne, Beaubien (Montarville), Buchanan, Haig, Howard, Robertson, Sinclair, White, and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present Session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the Senators so nominated.