

Accordingly,

House attends
in Council
Chamber.

The House went up to attend His Honour in the Council Chamber,

And being returned.

Mr. Speaker
reports speech.

Mr. Speaker then reported to the House that His Honour in the Council Chamber had been pleased to make a speech to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament of which Mr. Speaker said he had for greater accuracy obtained a copy, which copy was read by the Clerk of the House, and is as follows:—

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Councils

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. It affords me much pleasure to again welcome you on your assembling for the discharge of your legislative duties.

2. The righteous War in which Great Britain and her Allies are engaged on behalf of the Democracy of the world still calls for great and continued sacrifices in every part of the Empire. It is gratifying to realize that in no part of His Majesty's Dominions are these sacrifices more freely made than in the Province of Nova Scotia. That our people may be divinely guided in their future efforts to bring this titanic struggle to a just close is the earnest prayer of every true patriot.

3. As an indirect outcome of the War, the Capital City of our Province was the scene of an overwhelming disaster in the month of December last, resulting in the loss of many hundreds of lives and entailing a vast amount of suffering. The practical sympathy, not only of the Canadian people, but of those of every part of the Empire, was shown in a most generous way; while the prompt and efficient aid rendered by the people of the United States called forth the heartfelt thanks of the whole Province. The courage with which the citizens of Halifax have faced this great disaster is most commendable. The Government proposes to make a sub-

stantial contribution towards the relief of the unfortunate sufferers, and you will be asked to deal with necessary legislation to meet conditions arising out of this catastrophe.

4. Our Province has continued to enjoy the past year a period of substantial prosperity, in which the farming, fishing and manufacturing industries have all shared. The continued demand, at satisfactory prices, for all our products encourages the hope of further industrial progress during the coming year.

5. While the output from our Collieries shows a further regrettable decrease, this is entirely due to conditions arising out of the War. It is greatly to be deplored that within the past six months have occurred at New Waterford and Stellarton two of the greatest disasters in the history of our Province, resulting in the loss of more than one hundred and fifty brave lives, and tending to a further curtailment of output at a time when coal was greatly needed.

6. One of the most pleasing features of our industrial life at the present time has been the revival of wooden ship-building. The past year also witnessed the launching of the first large steel steamer built by Nova Scotia Labour in a Nova Scotia yard. The report of the Commission appointed under legislation of the last session, dealing with the ship-building industry, will be placed before you.

7. The new Workmen's Compensation Act has now been in operation one full year. Notwithstanding unusually severe calls upon its funds, the Act stood the test, and has been the means of bringing a measure of comfort into hundreds of homes of industrial workers. The first report of the Board administering the Act will be submitted to you.

8. Further arrangements have been made between the Government of Nova Scotia and the Federal Government in respect to the treatment of returned soldiers in the Nova Scotia Hospital and the Provincial Sanatorium. The Federal Government, through the Military Hospitals Commission, is also utilizing the staff and equipment of the Nova Scotia Technical College for the re-training of returned soldiers, under a satisfactory arrangement with this Government.

9. The Highway Act, passed at the last Session of the Legislature, has come into operation, and the Board appointed to administer the same is now perfecting its organization. It is hoped that the result will be a speedy and permanent improvement in the highways of the Province.

10. Our people are urgently requested to practice the strictest economy in the use of foodstuffs, and to engage to the utmost extent of their ability in greater food production. If they loyally respond to this appeal their efforts will materially assist in winning the war. A commission, consisting of certain members of the Legislature, was appointed some months ago to deal with this matter, and the result of their deliberations will be presented for your consideration. In this connection should be noted the importance of fish as a food product, and it is hoped that measures will be suggested for increasing the fish production.

11. A measure will be presented for your approval providing for the extension of the Electoral Franchise to women on the same terms as now enjoyed by men.

12. The consolidation and revision of several important Statutes, including the Towns' Incorporation Act, The Education Act, The Assessment Act, The Municipal Act, The Public Health Act, The Juries Act and The Franchise Act, will be placed before you for consideration.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

13. The Public Accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you, and also the Estimates for the current year, which will be prepared with due regard to efficiency and economy.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

14. To the several matters which I have brought to your notice, and to all others that may come before you, I invite your careful consideration, with the fullest confidence that the results of your deliberations will tend to promote the best interests of the Province.