

My Ministers have not been taken unawares by these developments. They have been kept fully in touch with the progress of events and, with His Majesty's Governments in other portions of the British Commonwealth, they have from time to time been called upon to express their views on the situation as it developed. As a matter of prudent precaution they have, for some time past, felt it necessary to prepare for hostilities in this area, and on the outbreak of war with Japan all necessary steps to place this Dominion in readiness for immediate defence were taken without delay. Further and more far-reaching measures must be taken at an early date, and my Government's intentions in this respect will be laid before you for your consideration.

War in the Pacific, perhaps at our very doors, brings with it many grave problems, and in the opinion of my Ministers it is incumbent upon all the people of this Dominion to realize the necessity of exerting our greatest efforts in the common cause and to recognize at once that there must inevitably be far-reaching adjustments in our normal mode of life.

We who uphold freedom and democracy know now beyond the possibility of doubt whom we must fight. The issue is now clearly joined, and, though the final result is certain, the way may well be long and hard and every section of the community must expect and cheerfully accept the sacrifices that the struggle may require.

My Advisers do not propose on this occasion to transact the ordinary business of Parliament. It is their intention that at this meeting you should confine your attention to war measures, and in these matters may Almighty God guide your deliberations in wisdom and in honour.