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EDITORIAL.

"FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND SECURITY."

Parliament was prorogued on November 20 and His Majesty the King with the Queen drove to Westminster to open the new Session in person, but the pageantry of a Royal opening in peace-time was omitted. It was the ceremonial opening of a new Session of a Parliament facing grim days of war. His Majesty wore the blue Service uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

Following is the text in part of the Speech from the Throne:—

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons—

My peoples and my Allies are united in their resolve to continue the fight against the aggressor nations until freedom is made secure. Then only can the nations, released from oppression and violence, again work together on a basis of ordered liberty and social justice.

I am confident that victory is assured, not only by the prowess of the armed Forces of my Empire, and those of my Allies, but also by the devotion of the Civil Defence Forces and the tenacity and industry of my peoples.

These are now enduring where they live and labour the perils as well as the hardships of war.

The staunchness of the men of the merchant and fishing fleets has added lustre to the ancient traditions of the sea.

The resistance of my people has won the admiration of other friendly Powers. The relations of my Government with that of the United States of America could not be more cordial, and I learn with the utmost satisfaction of the ever-increasing volume of munitions of war which is arriving from that country. It is good to know that in these fateful times how widely shared are the ideals of ordered freedom, of justice and security.

PLEDGE TO GREECE.

For over a year my Forces by sea, land and air have been defending the cause of freedom. My people everywhere, enduring with fortitude in their homes and workplaces and at sea the brutal attacks of the enemy, have nobly sustained the common effort.

By calculated treachery and violence Germany has brought under her yoke many free nations devoted to the arts of peace. I have been happy to receive here the Governments of countries thus overrun. I rejoice that their armed forces, together with brave men of other nations, are now fighting side by side with my own.

In the early summer, France, overtaken by military disaster, felt compelled to sue for terms of armistice. Taking advantage of French misfortunes, Italy seized the opportunity to range herself with the aggressor, and has now launched a wanton attack on Greece.

I welcome in the struggle against tyranny a new comrade to whom my Empire will bring all possible aid. By her courageous resistance, Greece is proving herself worthy of her glorious past.

My forces in the Mediterranean are prepared to give a good account of themselves in all emergencies, and my country enjoys in that region the benefit of valued treaties of alliance with Egypt and Turkey.

It was with gratification that I learned of the decision of the Government of the United States to transfer fifty destroyers to my Navy, and I trust that the grant to that Government of defence facilities in certain territories on the Atlantic seaboard may equally serve to defend the heritage of free men.

I am glad that, despite the heavy preoccupations of the war, my Government have found it possible to promote various measures for improving social conditions in this country.

The frustration of German plans for the invasion of Britain, the attacks upon the sources of German military power, the firm defence of Egypt and the Sudan, and the successful attack upon the Italian Navy give proof of our strength, and justify our confidence in final victory.

The present war is not only a struggle between nations. It springs from the clash of fundamental ideals. We shall not falter or lay aside our arms until the high purposes to which we have pledged our faith are achieved.

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your labours.

previous page

next page