20 December 1919 @

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TO HIS EXCELLENCY

Victor Christian William, Duke of Devoushire, Marquis of Nartington, Earl of Devoushire, Earl of Burlington, Baron Cavendish of Nardwicke, Baron Cavendish of Neighbey, N. G., P.C., B. C. M. G., G. C. V.O., etc., etc.

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

Report of a Committee of the Privy Council ON
MATTERS OF STATE.
PRESENT:

The RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR GEORGE E. FOSTER

HONOURABLE

C. J. DOHERTY

MARTIN BURRELL

P. E. BLONDIN

A. MEIGHEN

C. C. BALLANTYNE

A T. STETON

J. A. CALDER

CEN. S. C. MEWBURN

SIR H. DRAYTON

S. F. TOLMIE

May it please Your Excellency.

At the Government House at Ottawa, Saturday the 20th day of Dreember, 1919, Present: His Excellency the Governor General in Council: WHEREAS there has been laid before His Excellency the Governor General in Council a report from the Minister of Justice, dated 4th December, 1919, directing attention to the present situation with regard to the Government Orders and Regulations which were sanctioned under the authority of the War Measures Act, 1914, and which still remain in operation, and submitting the following with reference thereto,-The authority in this behalf conferred upon the Governor in Council by the Act is "to make from time to *time such orders and regulations as he may by reason of "the existence of real or apprehended war, invasion or "insurrection deem necessary or advisable for the security, "defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada." The Legal Committee appointed in England by His Majesty's Government to consider and report upon the interpretation of the term "period of war", by an interim report of 26th March, 1918, advised that the legislative powers of His Majesty's Government conferred by the Defence of the Realm Act, 1914, can be exercised only during the war, and that the Orders and Regulations made by the Government under the statute could not have any valid operation after the termination Canada Fazitte \ 27 Dec. 1919. - Page 1928.5

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stated in their report that "In our opinion the true

"construction of the section is that the regulations so

"issued can operate only during the continuance of the

"war. The purpose expressed is for securing the public

"safety and the defence of the realm, which we think mean

"the public safety so far as threatened by our enemies

"in the present war and the defence of the realm against

"those enemies. The powers are given by reason of the

"national emergency and vest the Executive with an autho
"rity so wide that we think it must have been intended

"only to exist during the existence of the emergency."

The provisions of the Defence of the Realm (Con.)

Act, 1914, of the United Kingdom, and of the War Measures
Act, 1914, of Camada, vary considerably, but so far as
affects the question under consideration they were enacted
for the same purpose, and the consideration upon which
the opinion of the Committee proceeds are very pertinent
to the question as to the operation of the Canadian
Orders and Regulations.

It Must be realized that although no proclamation has yet been issued declaring that the war no longer exists actual war conditions have in fact long ago reased to exist, and consequently existence of war can no longer be urged as a reason in fact for maintaining these extraordinary regulations as necessary or advisable for the security, defence, peace, order, and welfare of Canada.

The armistice which concluded hostilities became effective on 11th November, 1918, the Expeditionary Force has since been withdrawn and demobilized and the country generally is devoting its energies to re-establishment in the ordinary avocations of peace.

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In these circumstances the Minister considers that the time has arrived when the emergency Government legislation should cease to operate.

THEREFORE His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice is pleased to repeal all Orders and Regulations of the Governor-in-Council which depend for their sanction upon Section 6 of the War Measures Act, 1914, and the same are hereby repealed as from the First day of January, 1920, with the exception of the Orders and Regulations enumerated and included in the annexed schedule, which latter Orders and Regulations shall continue in force until the last day of the next Session of Parliament,

Approved Derombine.

20. 12. 19.