

PRAYERS.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Assistant Secretary to the Governor General, as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA

OTTAWA, September 24th, 1932.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament on Thursday, the 6th October, at three p.m.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES F. CROWDY,

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate,
Ottawa.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

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.

Who being come, with their Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor General was 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:

I welcome you to your duties at this season for my Ministers deem it expedient that you should consider, without delay, the Agreements made at the Imperial Economic Conference recently held in this City of Ottawa, between Canada and the other countries of the Empire. My Government are of opinion that these Agreements provide the means by which will be developed an enduring and mutually beneficial scheme of closer Empire Economic association, and that their early approval is advisable in the national interest.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Railways and Transportation will be laid before Parliament. In view of the conclusions and recommendations

contained in that Report your attention will be invited, at the earliest possible date, to a Bill designed to ensure more effective and economical operation of Canadian railways upon the basis of fair competition, secured in such manner as will avoid extravagant and harmful duplication of services.

Since the last session of Parliament, my Ministers have entered into a Treaty with the Government of the United States of America for the completion of the St. Lawrence Waterway. Upon its ratification by the duly constituted authority of the United States, this Treaty will be submitted to you for approval.

A Committee has been appointed by Order in Council to inquire into the operation of the Pensions Act so that my Ministers may have before them all information necessary to determine whether further action may be required to discharge the country's obligation to those who served in the Great War.

The problem of unemployment continues to receive the anxious attention of my Ministers. Under the powers granted them at the last session of Parliament, they have been able to develop further, in co-operation with the Provinces and Municipalities, a scheme of direct relief to be put into operation during the autumn and winter months to the extent required by prevailing conditions. Plans for the re-establishment of the unemployed in various parts of the country are in preparation and will become operative as soon as, in the opinion of my Ministers, the public expenditure incident thereto will be productive of commensurate benefits.

It is a matter of gratification to us all that in those large areas of the west, where, during recent successive years, crop failure was followed by widespread distress, this season's bountiful harvest forecasts greatly improved conditions and makes possible a corresponding reduction of relief measures.

In accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act, you will be invited to consider a Bill for the redistribution of representation of the Provinces in the House of Commons.

There will also be brought before you for consideration other measures which my Ministers deem to be in the public interest.

You will be invited to extend Canadian Bank Charters for one year in order that Parliament may be informed of the results of the proposed World Economic and Financial Conference, to be called to consider financial, economic and monetary problems, before undertaking the decennial revision of the Bank Act.

When you have considered the matters requiring your immediate attention, it is proposed that Parliament shall adjourn, until early in the new year, then to proceed with the ordinary business of the session.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted after Parliament has reassembled. These estimates will reflect the continuance of the policy of my Ministers to exercise every economy, compatible with the proper administration of the state, until more favourable economic conditions shall have materially augmented the current national revenues.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

While the economic situation still weighs heavily upon all classes of the community, there are at last definite signs that the acuteness of the depression is passing. I rejoice that the wisdom of your steadfast policy of retrenchment and constructive development, which has ameliorated the hardships of Canadians and maintained the enviable financial position of this country, is still more fully

manifest with approaching prosperity. The strength of our financial structure, the resourcefulness of agriculture, and the integrity of industry have enabled us to take quick and profitable advantage of improved conditions. The ratification of Empire trade agreements and your approval of the proposed economies and reforms in railway transportation are means by which Canada's favoured position will be more fully secured among the nations of the world.

The unity, fortitude and capacity of the Canadian people, without which all your labours would have been in vain, shall be now the foundation upon which, with co-operation and faith, we will build a Canada greater than we have yet known. I pray that Divine Providence may guide you in your exalted task.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

The Right Honourable Senator Meighen 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 at the next sitting of the Senate.

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate the Report of the Parliamentary Librarian, for the year 1932.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows:—

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Report of the Librarian for 1932.

To the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate.

The Parliamentary Librarian has the honour to submit the report on the Library for the year 1932.

The Supplementary Catalogue of books donated and purchased during the present year will be issued as soon as possible in 1933.

The undersigned records with regret the passing of Mr. J. de L. Taché. Mr. Taché, whose health had been far from satisfactory for some time, died on the 21st of March last. Born in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, he lived there and in Quebec City until removing to Ottawa after accepting the position of King's Printer. Twelve years ago he was appointed one of the Joint Librarians of Parliament. A great lover of Canada, he devoted special attention to the collection of literary material relating to the early history of the country. Kindly and courteous, he will be long remembered by the staff of the Parliamentary Library.