

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

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA

OTTAWA, January 16th, 1929.

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 7th February, at three p.m.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. C. MIEVILLE,

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:

In opening the Third Session of the Sixteenth Parliament of Canada I desire to join with you in profound thankfulness for the recovery of our beloved Sovereign, King George the Fifth. I share your fervent hope that His Majesty may be completely restored in health, and that he may be spared to continue that devoted service to the Empire which has won for him an abiding place in the hearts of the people.

The unprecedented prosperity which is apparent throughout the Dominion affords cause for the deepest satisfaction. Never in the history of Canada has there been such industrial and commercial expansion as that which has taken place during the past twelve months. The industry and enterprise of our people have been rewarded under Providence with an abundant harvest. In the production of agricultural and other basic industries all previous records have been surpassed. New records have also been established in the volume of construction and in the volume of foreign trade. Employment has been maintained at a high level and all indications point to a continuance throughout the country of the present favourable conditions.

A notable feature of industrial development has been the continued advance and prosperity of the mining industry in almost every part of the Dominion.

The production of the fishing industry during the past year has shown a substantial increase over that of 1927. In accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Fisheries, the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries has been separated from the Marine Branch, and a Deputy Minister of Fisheries has been appointed. A reorganization of the Fisheries Service along lines recommended by the Commission is being effected. Certain other matters covered in the report will, during the present session, be dealt with by legislation.

Plans are in progress of completion for the construction of the National Research Laboratories to provide scientific and technical knowledge for the various branches of production.

The past year witnessed the inauguration of the Canadian National Steamships service between Canada and Bermuda and the West Indies. The many advantages of this service are already apparent. In view of the importance of our ever increasing export trade it is intended to augment and extend the existing facilities for furnishing Canadian exporters with commercial information in respect to foreign markets. It is also proposed to establish additional Trade Commissioner offices at strategic points in different parts of the world.

Communication within the Dominion has been facilitated and improved by an extensive development of air mail services, and communication to all parts of the British Empire by the restoration of penny postage.

The expansion in trade and commerce which the country has experienced has been strikingly reflected in our transportation returns. The net earnings of the railways have exceeded those of any previous year.

Satisfactory progress continues to be made in the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway. The laying of steel is now within thirty-seven miles of the terminus of the line at Churchill, where a substantial commencement has been made in the provision of port facilities. The rapid development of Western and Northern Canada imposes on the railways the necessity of providing increased transportation facilities in the immediate future. A further branch line program by the Canadian National management will be submitted for your consideration. You will also be asked to authorize the acquisition of certain railways in both Eastern and Western Canada, which will constitute potentially important feeders of the Canadian National System.

Amendment of the Railway Act will be sought, granting to the Board of Railway Commissioners wider powers of investigation of affairs in relation to subsidiary concerns, and with respect to the issue of capital stock.

Legislation will be introduced to give effect to a general pension scheme for the benefit of the employees of the Canadian National Railways.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization, agreements have been consummated with several of the Provinces for the promotion of juvenile settlement from the United Kingdom. Negotiations have also been concluded for the application of a £10 ocean rate to all British immigrants ordinarily resident in Great Britain or Northern Ireland, except agricultural families, house workers, and juvenile immigrants who receive a more favourable rate under the Empire Settlement Passage Agreement. A flow of immigrants commensurate with Canadian requirements and selected strictly for their ability to promote the general prosperity of the country is being satisfactorily maintained.

A royal commission has been appointed to inquire and report as to what financial readjustments are necessary in order that the Province of Manitoba may be placed in a position of equality with the other Provinces of Confederation

with respect to the administration and control of its natural resources, as from its entrance into Confederation in 1870.

Negotiations have also been resumed with the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan with a view to the transfer to these Provinces of their natural resources, and with the Province of British Columbia with respect to the restoration to that Province of the lands of the railway belt and the Peace River Block.

A royal commission has been appointed to inquire into the existing situation respecting radio broadcasting in Canada, and to make recommendations to the Government as to its future administration, management, control, and financing.

Since the close of the last Session, there has been a marked development of the provision for direct personal contact in the discussion of inter-imperial and foreign affairs. The High Commissioner for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland took up his duties at Ottawa in September. The Japanese Legation was established at Ottawa in July under a Chargé d'Affaires, and the French Legation at Ottawa in November on the arrival of the Minister of France. The Canadian Legation in Paris was opened at the end of September, and steps are being taken for the early establishment of the Canadian Legation at Tokyo. The more effective consultation provided by the personal contacts thus established will, it is believed, serve materially to advance the common interests concerned, and to promote understanding and good-will in our inter-imperial and international relations.

The Multi-lateral Treaty for the Renunciation of War, which was signed on behalf of Canada on August 27, will be submitted for your approval; also a convention between the United States and Canada providing for the preservation of the scenic values of Niagara Falls.

Among other measures to which your consideration will be invited, will be certain amendments to the Dominion Elections Act, the Companies Act, the Fisheries Act, the Narcotic Drug Act, and the Act Respecting Technical Education.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year, and the estimates for the coming year, will be promptly submitted.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

As you enter upon the duties of another Session, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Commons withdrew.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

PRAYERS.

The Honourable Mr. Dandurand 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.