

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 25th, 1930.

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 20th 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:

It affords me much pleasure to greet you at the commencement of another session of parliament, and to be able to congratulate you upon the continued prosperity of the country. The year 1929 was the most productive year in the history of Canada. In industries, other than agriculture, employment reached the highest point on record; new construction was the largest known. Mining production was of unequalled value. Manufacturing production surpassed all previous records. There was vast increase in the development of hydro-electric power. The products of our fields and our herds reached higher standards of excellence and quality than at any previous time. The Dominion is already recovering from the seasonal slackness evident at the end of the year, and it is not to be forgotten that the bulk of the 1929 wheat crop still remains in Canadian hands for final disposition.

Our trade with foreign countries has shown marked increase. During the year additional Trade Commissioners' offices have been opened in several countries, and additional steamship services inaugurated to Australia and South

America. Tenders have been called for proposed extensions of steamship services to India and British East Africa.

Our two railway systems have carried out extensive construction and development plans, and are contemplating further construction and developments. The final section of the Hudson Bay Railway has been completed. The construction of the Welland Ship Canal is now nearing completion. On the opening of the new canal the Upper Lake grain carriers will be able to reach Lake Ontario and Upper St. Lawrence ports. The work of providing suitable terminals is proceeding.

Legislation will be introduced respecting the several railway properties formerly privately owned and now embraced in the Canadian National Railway system.

For some time past my Ministers have been giving special attention to those problems which for many years have been a source of controversy between the provinces of Canada and the Dominion. Among matters of concern have been certain economic and financial readjustments deemed by the provinces essential to their being placed in a position of equality one with the other. To a greater or lesser extent, problems have arisen with respect to all the provinces of Canada. Those of the Maritime provinces were investigated by the Royal Commission on Maritime Claims and have been in large part solved by the effect given to the recommendations of that body. Consideration is at present being given to the final revision of the financial arrangements contemplated by the Commission's report.

The provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have negotiated for many years with the Government of Canada for the return of their natural resources. The province of British Columbia has sought the restoration to the province of lands comprising what is known as the railway belt and Peace River block. With the provinces of Manitoba and Alberta and with the province of British Columbia agreements have been reached, which will be submitted to you for approval. An offer similar in character and terms to that accepted by Alberta has been made to Saskatchewan with respect to the transfer to that province of its natural resources.

The provinces of Ontario and Quebec have been concerned over the question of water powers in their relation to navigation. It having become apparent, through a reference to the Supreme Court, that this question cannot readily be settled by judicial determination, a solution has been sought by conference which it is hoped will lead to a satisfactory settlement of this highly controversial problem.

My Ministers have also been making careful inquiry into the workings of the provisions and administration of the Pensions Act with a view to ascertaining what, in the light of past and present experiences, may be necessary to ensure full effect being given to the purpose of Parliament in that enactment. As a result your attention will be invited to legislation to make more adequate provision for the needs of the veterans of the Great War and their dependents.

The report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the existing situation with respect to radio broadcasting in Canada will be presented for your consideration.

The report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the classification and remuneration of technical and professional officials of the Civil Service of Canada will also be presented for your consideration.

During the year a complete reorganization was effected in the personnel of the Board of Grain Commissioners. Men of outstanding business, agricultural and scientific experience have been appointed to administer the Canada Grain Act. A Bill will be presented for the consolidation of the Canada Grain Act, in accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Agriculture at the last session.

At the September meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations, the Optional Clause of the Statute of the Permanent Court, providing for the submission of justiciable disputes to arbitration, was signed on behalf of Canada and all the other nations of the British Commonwealth. It will be submitted for your approval.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Imperial Conference of 1926, a conference was held in London during the past autumn to consider and report on certain phases of the operation of Dominion legislation and merchant shipping. The report of this conference will be submitted.

In the summer of last year, an invitation was extended by His Majesty's Government in Canada to all His Majesty's other Governments to participate in an Imperial Economic Conference in Canada at the earliest possible date. It was found that the convenience of the majority of the Governments could best be met by an arrangement to hold the Imperial Economic Conference along with the Imperial Conference in London in the early autumn of the present year. This has accordingly been arranged.

Canada, in common with the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, is participating in the Conference on the Limitation of Naval Armament, which was opened in London by His Majesty on January 21st. It is confidently hoped that the discussions so auspiciously begun will result in a marked lessening of international rivalries and the growth of security and good-will.

The eligibility of women for appointment to the Senate of Canada has been declared by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and I have been pleased, on the advice of my Ministers, to avail myself of the earliest opportunity to summon a woman to the Senate. For the first time in Canadian history, women have been accorded an equal right with men to representation in both Houses of Parliament.

Among other measures to which your attention will be invited are amendments to the Elections Act, the Bankruptcy Act, the Companies Act, and the Criminal Code.

Members of the House of Commons:

The Public Accounts of the last fiscal year and the Estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In again inviting your careful consideration to the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that Divine Providence may continue to 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.