

Friday, January 19th, 1917.

The Members convened were:—

The Honourable JOSEPH BOLDUC, Speaker,

The Honourable Messieurs

Beaubien,	De Veber,	McHugh,	Smith,
Belcourt,	Donnelly,	McLean,	Sproule,
Bostock,	Edwards,	McLennan,	Talbot,
Bowell	Forget,	McSweeney,	Taylor,
(Sir Mackenzie),	Gillmor,	Mitchell,	Tessier,
Boyer,	Godbout,	Poirier,	Thibaudeau,
Choquette,	Gordon,	Pope,	Thompson,
Cloran,	King,	Power,	Thorne,
Dandurand,	Landry,	Prowse,	Watson,
Daniel,	La Rivière,	Ratz,	Wilson,
Dennis,	Lavergne,	Roche,	Yeo.
Dessaulles,	Lougheed,	Ross	
	(Sir James),	(Moosejaw),	

PRAYERS.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After a while, His Excellency the Governor General having come, and being seated on the Throne,

His Honour 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.

Who being come, with their Speaker, the Honourable Edgar N. Rhodes, who said:—

May it please Your Excellency,—

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall in error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am.

His Honour the Speaker of the Senate then said:—

Mr. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I desire on this occasion to express my respectful appreciation of the honour conferred on me by the King in appointing me to the distinguished office of Governor General.

I esteem it a high privilege to become closely identified with Canada at the time when she is taking so splendid a part in the world-wide struggle, and I look forward to her ability and capacity to exercise an ever increasing influence in bringing the war to a victorious conclusion.

When peace is again happily restored I am confident that the vast resources of the Dominion will continue to be developed for the lasting benefit of the Empire and in the best interests of liberty and humanity.

Although nearly two and a half years have elapsed since the outbreak of war yet that period has not been more than sufficient for the enormous preparation necessary to enable our Empire to throw its full strength into the struggle.

The events that have transpired since prorogation give convincing testimony of the efficiency of the measures thus taken and bear splendid tribute to the valour and heroism of His Majesty's forces in every theatre of war.

With preparation already so ample and still increasing we may confidently anticipate that the not distant future will bring such success to the allied arms as will assure the full maintenance of the purposes and ideals for which we have engaged in this war.

The Canadian forces dispatched overseas during 1916 numbered more than 165,000 and the aggregate of enlistments in Canada since the outbreak of war is nearly 400,000. In attack as well as in defence the valour, endurance and resourcefulness of the Canadian troops have been conspicuous on every occasion when they have met the enemy, and they have splendidly upheld the highest traditions of their country.

Equally notable and impressive has been the fine spirit of loyalty displayed by the people of this Dominion who have freely dedicated their energies and their material resources to the common defence of our Empire.

Steps have been taken by my advisers for better organization of National Service, and attention has been given to the more thorough utilization of our natural resources. Measures have also been taken in co-operation with the Government of the United Kingdom to facilitate the increased production of munitions in Canada.

The Government of the United Kingdom have invited the First Ministers of the Dominions to attend a series of special and continuous meetings of the War Cabinet (of which for this purpose they will be members) to consider urgent questions affecting the prosecution of the war, the possible conditions on which the Allied Nations could assent to its termination, and the problems which would then immediately arise. This invitation has been accepted on behalf of Canada.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the foundation of this Dominion draws near and brings with it the inspiring memory of all that has been accomplished during the half century in the upbuilding of a united and powerful nation. My advisers believe that, notwithstanding the continuance of the war, there should be an appropriate commemoration of an event so notable in the history of Canada.

The life of the present Parliament will expire in October next, and under existing legislation a dissolution and election would be necessary in the early future. My advisers, however, are of opinion that the wishes of the Canadian people and the urgent requirements of the war would be best met by avoiding the distraction and confusion consequent upon a general election at so critical a time.

That purpose can only be effected through the medium of legislation by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. A resolution authorizing and requesting the enactment of such legislation as will further extend the life of this Parliament will be presented to you.

Although in some parts of the Dominion weather conditions affected adversely the excellent prospects of an unusually large harvest, yet taking the country as a whole, the labours of our husbandmen have been abundantly rewarded.

The commercial, industrial and financial stability of the country has been well maintained during the past year. There is every reason to believe that the Dominion will be in a position to meet satisfactorily the readjustment of conditions which must ensue upon the termination of the war.

Important measures designed to aid in meeting these new conditions have been in preparation and some of them will be submitted for your consideration.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the last, and the estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted to you without delay, and you will be asked to make the necessary financial provision for the effective conduct of the war.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The lofty patriotism, the fine courage, and the inflexible purpose which have animated all His Majesty's Dominions in upholding our great cause are in nowise abated. In common with the rest of the Empire the people of this Dominion are firmly resolved that in this war, which has entailed so much sacrifice and which we have undertaken for the highest ideals of humanity and civilization, our efforts shall be continued and strengthened until they are crowned with an abiding peace.

I commend to your attentive consideration all measures submitted to you for that great purpose, and I pray that the Divine blessing may attend your deliberations.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The Senate resumed.

The Honourable Sir James Lougheed presented to the Senate a Bill () intitled:—"An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read a first time.

His Honour 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 then read by His Honour the Speaker.

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

With leave of the Senate, it was

Ordered, That all the Senators present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.