

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.

The House of Commons being come,

Their Speaker, the Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux, said:—

May it please Your Excellency,—

The House of Commons has elected me 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 into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable interpretation.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate answered:—

Mr. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to His Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence he grants and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings as well as 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:

Members of the House of Commons:

I desire on this occasion to assure you of the great satisfaction it affords me to be associated with you in the important tasks upon which you are about to enter at this, the first session of the Sixteenth Parliament of Canada, and to avail myself of your assistance and advice in discharging the duties which His Majesty the King has entrusted to me as his representative.

Once again we have cause to be thankful for a bountiful harvest and other assurances of continued prosperity. It is gratifying to note that during the year the foreign trade of Canada has shown further marked improvement and that immigration has substantially increased.

The necessity of making adequate provision for the public services has compelled me to summon you at an earlier date than would otherwise have

been necessary. In order to provide for present and immediate future needs, and to regularize expenditures already made, you will be asked forthwith to vote the necessary supply for the current financial year. It is not proposed to proceed with the ordinary business of the session until the reassembling of Parliament in the New Year.

Those government measures which passed the House of Commons at the last session of Parliament, but which failed to become law, will be reintroduced. Amendments to the Canada Grain Act will also be submitted for your consideration.

With a view to expediting public business generally, it is proposed to afford opportunity for an early consideration of Amendments to the Rules of the House of Commons.

My Government has continued to give special attention to the fuel problem and measures providing for assistance to works constructed for the production of domestic coke from Canadian coal will be submitted.

The report of the Commission appointed under the Inquiries Act to examine and report upon conditions in the Maritime Provinces will be presented immediately and your attention will be invited to its recommendations. Measures dealing with the matters referred to in the report of the Commission are now under consideration by my Government, and certain legislation in respect thereto will be introduced.

Good progress has been made with work on the Hudson Bay Railway and it is planned to continue construction at as early a date as possible next year. It has been decided to submit the study of conditions at the Port to the careful examination of an outstanding British authority on tidal and estuarial conditions affecting harbours.

Canadian National branch line construction on the basis of a definite three-year programme having proved entirely successful, that method of dealing with necessary railway expansion will be continued, and another three-year programme will be submitted for your consideration.

You will also be asked to approve an agreement with the holders of Grand Trunk Pacific perpetual debentures.

Members of my Government have just returned to Canada from attending the meetings of the Imperial Conference. The Report of the proceedings of the Conference, together with its recommendations, will be placed before you for consideration. It will, I believe, be recognized that the joint labours of the Governments represented at the Conference have gone far to set forth the relations of the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations to one another and to foreign countries and to ensure a ready appreciation of the full measure of self-government now attained in all that relates to their domestic and external affairs. In the prolonged consideration given to specific matters of joint concern, the Conference has done much to ensure the free and effective co-operation in common ends of the Governments and peoples of the British Empire.

The recent appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary accredited by His Majesty to represent the interests of Canada in the United States marks an important stage in the development of the international relations of the Dominion.

The Diamond Jubilee of Confederation will be appropriately celebrated during the coming year. I am pleased to inform you that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has graciously accepted the invitation of my Government to visit Canada, circumstances permitting, in connection with the celebration. My Government has also extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of Great Britain; the Prime Minister has accepted the invitation and has expressed the hope that when the time arrives he may find it possible to be present.

Members of the House of Commons:

The estimates for the current fiscal year which have not hitherto been voted by Parliament will, as already mentioned, be submitted for your approval forthwith. Estimates for the financial year 1927-28 will be submitted for your consideration when Parliament reassembles.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:**Members of the House of Commons:*

In inviting your careful consideration of the important matters which will engage your attention, 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.

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

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Dandurand, 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.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Dandurand, it was—

Ordered, That pursuant to Rule 77 the following Senators, to wit: The Honourable Messieurs Belcourt, Daniel, Prowse, Robertson, Ross (Middleton), Sharpe, Tanner, Watson, Willoughby and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present Session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the Senators so nominated.

With leave of the Senate, it was—

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns to-day, it do stand adjourned until Monday, the thirteenth day of December, next, at eight o'clock in the evening.

The Honourable Mr. Belcourt presented to the Senate a Bill (A), intituled: "An Act to amend certain provisions of The Criminal Code respecting the possession of Weapons."

The said Bill was read the first time, and—

Ordered, That it be placed on the Orders of the day for a second reading on Wednesday, next.