

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

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA

OTTAWA, 16th January, 1935.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open formally the Session of the Dominion Parliament on Thursday the 17th January, at 3.30 p.m.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. F. LASCELLES,

Secretary to the Governor General.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate,
Ottawa.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table.

The Senate 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 James L. Bowman, 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.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate answered:—

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 Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I welcome you at a time when our country stands upon the threshold of a new era of prosperity. It will be for you, by your labours, to throw wide the door.

During the past year the grip of hard times has been broken. Conditions show marked improvement. Employment is increasing. Our trade is expanding. The national revenues are higher. These evidences of recovery attest the wisdom and efficacy of the measures you have taken. In these improved conditions, there may now successfully be carried forward those great tasks of reform upon which the well-being of this country depends.

In the anxious years through which you have passed, you have been the witnesses of grave defects and abuses in the capitalist system. Unemployment and want are the proof of these. Great changes are taking place about us. New conditions prevail. These require modifications in the capitalist system to enable that system more effectively to serve the people. Reform measures will therefore be submitted to you as part of a comprehensive plan designed to remedy the social and economic injustices now prevailing, and to ensure to all classes and to all parts of the country a greater degree of equality in the distribution of the benefits of the capitalist system.

Upon this plan you have made a beginning.

Reform measures approved by you at the last session of Parliament are already in successful operation. I observe with especial gratification the manner in which the Natural Products Marketing Act and the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act are already serving the great and urgent needs of agriculture and other primary industries. You will be invited to consider amendments to these Acts which will extend the sphere of their usefulness. The organization of the Bank of Canada is nearing completion, and it will commence operations at an early date. My Ministers are convinced of the value of this institution as an instrument of national policy to direct the better utilization of the credit resources of Canada.

Legislation enacted at the last session of Parliament respecting the metallic coverage of our note issue and the initiation of the public works program have eased credit conditions and stimulated business enterprise.

Better provision will be made for the security of the worker during unemployment, in sickness, and in old age.

The measures taken respecting public and private debts have done much to lighten the burden of the taxpayer and to improve the position of the farming community. My Ministers are now engaged upon a survey of the national debt structure to determine what action may be practicable and advisable to effect further improvement in it.

You will be invited to enact legislation to extend existing facilities for long term and intermediate credit.

During the past year, wider markets for our products have been secured. A supplementary Trade Agreement has been negotiated with the Republic of France. The Trade Agreement with Austria has been renewed. Negotiations with the Government of Poland, which it is hoped will lead to the conclusion

of a comprehensive commercial convention, are in progress. It is the policy of my Ministers to pursue vigorously every opportunity by which our world trade may be increased. The policy of my Government of consolidating and expanding Empire markets will be vigorously pursued.

A Royal Commission has been appointed to advise my Ministers upon the steps which should be taken to implement the findings of the Duncan Commission.

Pursuant to the Agreement made between the Government of Canada and the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta, Royal Commissions have been appointed to determine what, if any, compensation is payable to these Provinces in respect to the period since 1905, in which their natural resources were under the control of the Government of Canada.

My Ministers are co-operating with the Governments of the Prairie Provinces in a survey of those areas which have been stricken by recurring periods of drought, for the purpose of determining what steps may be taken to provide a permanent solution to this grave problem.

Action will be taken to ameliorate the conditions of labour, to provide a better and more assured standard of living for the worker, to secure minimum wages and a maximum working week, and to alter the incidence of taxation so that it will more directly conform to capacity of pay.

You will be invited to enact measures designed to safeguard the consumer and primary producer against unfair trading practices and to regulate, in the public interest, concentrations in production and distribution.

You will be invited also to enact measures to provide the investing public with means to protect itself against exploitation.

You will be invited to enact legislation to amend and consolidate the Acts relating to Patents and Inventions.

My Government has under consideration the adoption, throughout the penitentiaries of Canada, of a system similar to that which is known in England as the "Borstal System", and is making investigations as to its operation.

My Ministers have under preparation a plan for the reorganization of the Government services so that they may be better equipped to discharge the onerous duties which devolve upon them. You will be invited to consider measures, the purpose of which will be to authorize the first stage in this plan of reorganization.

You will be invited to authorize the constitution of an Economic Council, the functions of which will be to advise my Ministers upon all economic questions which concern the national welfare.

The four hundredth anniversary of the landing of Jacques Cartier was fittingly commemorated in the chief centres connected with his voyages of discovery. Representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom, France, and the United States, took part. The celebration and the visit of a large and distinguished mission from France knit new bonds of understanding.

The maintenance of peace and the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends, have been the constant concern of my Ministers. There are definite signs that the political tension and unrest in Europe which have intensified rivalry in armaments and economic restrictions, are lessening,

largely as a result of the renewed determination to make use of the agencies of conciliation and co-operation provided by the League of Nations. It will be the object of my Government to support this policy and to work towards the progressive reduction of armaments and the stabilization of international economic relations.

The year 1935 will be memorable for all subjects of His Gracious Majesty King George V. On the 6th of May, we shall celebrate, throughout the British Empire, the 25th Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne. On that day, all of us will wish to unite in an act of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for having thus preserved His Majesty, whose wisdom and devotion to the well-being of his subjects have proved so inestimable a blessing. My Ministers are considering means, shortly to be announced, by which the people of Canada may be afforded an opportunity of suitably commemorating this great landmark in the history of our Empire, and of testifying their loyal devotion to their beloved Sovereign.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year, and the Estimates for the coming year, will be submitted to you at an early date.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I know you will be diligent and resolute in the country's service. Though the problems which confront you are, in essence and degree, far different from those which in the past you overcame, I know that these present ones you will surmount with the same spirit of faith and determination which has carried Canada to a forward place among the nations.

May God give you strength to support, by your unremitting labours, this great movement towards happier days.

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.