

THE SENATE DEBATES

THIRD SESSION—TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, January 15, 1914.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m.

NEW SENATOR.

Hon. William Henry Thorne, of the province of New Brunswick.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Royal Highness the Governor General 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 the House that,—

It is His Royal Highness the Governor General's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.

Who being come, with their Speaker,

His Royal Highness the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I take this public opportunity of expressing to you all, my deep sense of gratitude for the comfort and support that were afforded us at the time of the serious illness of the Duchess of Connaught, by the numerous messages of sympathy that were received from Canada, and by the knowledge, that the hearts of so many Canadians were with us during those dark days. I can only regret that my enforced absence made it impossible for me to fully exercise the duties of my high office during a considerable portion of last year.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you upon the remarkable expansion of Canada's trade with other countries in the past fiscal year, during which our total trade far exceeded that of any preceding year.

The bountiful crops with which the Dominion has fortunately been blessed during the past season have been harvested under unusually favourable condition . . . have enabled the

transportation companies to make full use of all the facilities at their disposal. Thus the difficulties, which sometimes arose in former years have not been manifest, and an unusually large proportion of the crops have been conveyed to the sea-board before the close of the season of inland navigation.

Canada has been favoured by a long series of prosperous years, and, although at the present moment business is slightly restricted by the financial stringency which prevails throughout the world, I feel convinced that this condition will be merely temporary, and that the boundless resources of this Dominion which are so fully and universally known and recognized, give us the fullest assurance of continued material prosperity and progress.

As a result of the recent decennial census the representation of the different provinces must be readjusted, as required by the British North America Act, and a Bill will be introduced for that purpose.

A Bill consolidating the Railway Act and its various amendments, as well as Bills relating to the Civil Service and to Trust and Loan Companies, will be submitted for your consideration.

Several other Bills will be submitted, including measures providing for increased representation of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, in the Senate.

The volume of immigration during the present fiscal year promises to be greater than that of any preceding year. It has come in greatest measure from the British Isles and from the United States, but a large stream of desirable immigration has also reached our shores from other countries.

You will be pleased to learn that satisfactory arrangements have been made with the various provinces under the Agricultural Instruction Act passed at the last session. My advisers are convinced that the co-operation between the Dominion and the provinces which is thus afforded, will accomplish excellent results, in assuring better agricultural instruction and needful improvement of existing methods of agriculture.

The work on the National Transcontinental railway has been rapidly advanced during the past year, and, notwithstanding the difficulties attending the construction of the Hudson Bay railway, and the provision of terminals, every possible progress has been made in bringing that important project nearer to completion.

In connection with the highly important subject of transportation of our products, the pro-