

accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill.

After which His Royal Highness the Governor General was pleased to close the Third Session of the Twelfth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, with the following Speech:

SPEECH.

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

I am glad to relieve you from further attendance in Parliament after a session which has been marked by legislation of an important character.

The task of readjusting the representation of the people in the House of Commons, under the provisions of the British North America Act, on a basis not open to just criticism, has naturally been a difficult one; but it has been accomplished in a manner which I trust will prove satisfactory to the electorate. This readjustment will greatly increase the representation of the four western provinces.

My advisers have not been unmindful of the necessity of completing with the least possible delay the great Transcontinental railway systems now under construction; and the provision which has been made for necessary assistance to those great national enterprises will, I trust, not only ensure their early completion but result in distince and marked benefit to all portions of the Dominion.

The difficult question of providing a system of naturalization whereby the status of British citizenship thus acquired shall be recognized by law in all parts of the empire has for many years engaged the attention of the Governments of the mother country and of all the self-governing Dominions. The measure which has been passed for that purpose by the Parliament of Canada and which will find its complement in legislation passed by the Imperial Parliament and by the Parliaments of the other Dominions, contributes to a great result upon which the empire as a whole is to be congratulated.

It has been found necessary to make a partial readjustment of the tariff in certain important respects and I have every confidence that this readjustment will prove of marked advantage not only to the industries chiefly concerned but to all the business and industrial life of the country.

The legislation which has been enacted to implement the resolutions passed by the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, pro-

vides more effective measures for ensuring in the future the safety of passengers and crews on ocean-going steamships.

The measure which has been passed for the more effective supervision of Cold Storage Warehouses will, I trust, have important results by regulating in the public interest the condition and disposal of food products as stored.

It is confidently anticipated that the amendments to the existing laws respecting Trust and Loan Companies will prove of marked advantage in securing greater uniformity as well as additional safeguards to the public.

The measure providing for a specially constituted commission to investigate shipping casualties of extreme gravity will afford the means of making a more thorough and exhaustive inquiry into such cases and of securing recommendations from competent experts as to requisite precautions to prevent such disasters in the future.

My advisers are constantly impressed with the necessity for greater and improved facilities in all the national ports of Canada and they believe that the necessary provision of large dry docks which are essential for that purpose will be more readily consummated by the amendment passed at the present session.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the public service.

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

My term of office is drawing to a close and this is the last occasion on which I shall have the honour of addressing you as Governor General.

I consider it a fitting opportunity of expressing to you my fervent belief in the high destiny of Canada and the manner in which Canadians will fulfil that destiny.

I desire to assure you that, after my official connection with you is severed, I shall still continue to feel the greatest affection for the people of Canada and an unaltered interest in all that pertains to the progress and prosperity of the Dominion.

The Speaker of the Senate then said:

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

It is His Royal Highness the Governor General's will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued until Wednesday, the 22nd day of July next, to be here holden, and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued until Wednesday, the 22nd day of July next.