

Statement of the Affairs of the Royal Society of Canada for the year ended April 30, 1913.—Hon. W. T. White.

TITLES OF HONOUR.

Mr. J. H. BURNHAM moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3, to abolish Titles of Honour in Canada. He said: It has been rumoured that there is some danger of the spirit of democracy in Canada being compromised, perhaps not by this Government, but by the existence of conditions which will enable the representatives of the people, through a misconception of their duty, to create titles of honour which are contrary to the spirit of democracy in Canada. This Bill refers to the powers and jurisdiction of this Parliament, and is intended to abolish such titles of honour, and to restore things to a normal condition of democracy.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

Mr. ROBERT BICKERDIKE, moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 4, to amend the Criminal Code. He said: The Bill is self-explanatory. Its purpose is to amend the Criminal Code with the view of abolishing in toto the death penalty in Canada. I feel that the death penalty is a blot on Christendom, a blight on religion and a reproach to any Christian nation allowing it to stand on its statute-books.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

HOURS OF LABOUR ON PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. ALPHONSE VERVILLE moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 7, respecting the hours of labour on public works. He said: The Bill which I now present to the House has been on the Order Paper for the past two sessions. Every one knows why the Bill was not reached last year, but I hope that this year we shall have time to reach it. As I said last session, I trust that the present Government will have the same disposition to accept this Bill as they had when they were on the opposition side of the House.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS.

PUBLIC BILLS.

Bill No. 2, to amend the Dominion Elections Act.—Mr. Burnham.

Bill No. 5, respecting the Pollution of Navigable Waters.—Mr. Bradbury.

Bill No. 6, to regulate Cold Storage.—Mr. Bradbury.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Speech of His Royal Highness the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. H. F. McLEOD (York, N.B.) rose to move that an Address be presented to His Royal Highness the Governor General offering the humble thanks of this House to His Royal Highness for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament. He said:

I appreciate the kindly reception which has been given me on rising to-day, a reception, I fancy, that is accorded to every new member who makes his initial step in this House of Commons. I may be forgiven, Sir, if I find myself a bit embarrassed when, for the first time, I rise in this Chamber to say a few words, a Chamber that has with it and in it and about it such a wondrous wealth of tradition of the days gone by, such a glory of historic memories of the men of both political parties who have shaped the destinies of this young nation. The thought that will perhaps be uppermost in the mind of any man rising to address this House for the first time, as it is in mine, is that, after all, it is worth while to sacrifice something of material advantage to enter public life, to serve, in even the most humble capacity, this young nation which we all love.

His Royal Highness, in the speech which he was pleased to deliver at the opening of this session, made reference to the comfort and support that went out from the Canadian people to himself and his family during the illness of the Duchess in the summer just gone. May I say—and I think I voice the feeling not only of this House but of the Canadian people—that from every city, hamlet and farm in this broad land there went out a genuine feeling of heartfelt sympathy not only because His Royal Highness comes here as a member of the Royal Family, not only because following a long line of illustrious predecessors in the office of the Governor General, he has fully lived up to the high tradition maintained in the past in that office, but because of the kindly courtesy and the heartfelt sympathy which the Duchess herself has shown wherever she has gone in Canada.