

powers in their relation to navigation. It having become apparent, through a reference to the Supreme Court, that this question cannot readily be settled by judicial determination, a solution has been sought by conference which it is hoped will lead to a satisfactory settlement of this highly controversial problem.

My Ministers have also been making careful inquiry into the workings of the provisions and administration of the Pensions Act with a view to ascertaining what, in the light of past and present experiences, may be necessary to ensure full effect being given to the purpose of Parliament in that enactment. As a result your attention will be invited to legislation to make more adequate provision for the needs of the veterans of the Great War and their dependents.

The report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the existing situation with respect to radio broadcasting in Canada will be presented for your consideration.

The report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the classification and remuneration of technical and professional officials of the Civil Service of Canada will also be presented for your consideration.

During the year a complete re-organization was effected in the personnel of the Board of Grain Commissioners. Men of outstanding business, agricultural and scientific experience have been appointed to administer the Canada Grain Act. A Bill will be presented for the consolidation of the Canada Grain Act, in accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Agriculture at the last session.

At the September meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations, the Optional Clause of the Statute of the Permanent Court, providing for the submission of justiciable disputes to arbitration, was signed on behalf of Canada and all the other nations of the British Commonwealth. It will be submitted for your approval.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Imperial Conference of 1926, a conference was held in London during the past autumn to consider and report on certain phases of the operation of Dominion legislation and merchant shipping. The report of this conference will be submitted.

In the summer of last year, an invitation was extended by His Majesty's Government in Canada to all His Majesty's other Governments to participate in an Imperial Economic Conference in Canada at the earliest possible date. It was found that the convenience of the majority of the Governments could best be met by an arrangement to hold the Imperial Economic Conference along with the Imperial Conference in London in the early autumn of the present year. This has accordingly been arranged.

Canada, in common with the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, is participating in the Conference on the Limitation of Naval Armament, which was opened in London by His Majesty on January 21. It is confidently hoped that the discussions so auspiciously begun will result in a marked lessening of international rivalries and the growth of security and good-will.

The eligibility of women for appointment to the Senate of Canada has been declared by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and I have been pleased, on the advice of my

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Ministers, to avail myself of the earliest opportunity to summon a woman to the Senate. For the first time in Canadian history, women have been accorded an equal right with men to representation in both Houses of Parliament.

Among other measures to which your attention will be invited are amendments to the Elections Act, the Bankruptcy Act, the Companies Act, and the Criminal Code.

Members of the House of Commons:

The Public Accounts of the last fiscal year and the Estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In again inviting your careful consideration to the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that Divine Providence may continue to guide and bless your deliberations.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

Prayers.

RAILWAY BILL

FIRST READING

Bill —, an Act respecting Railways.—Hon. Mr. Dandurand.

CONSIDERATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, it was ordered, that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Tuesday, February 25.

NEW SENATORS INTRODUCED

The following newly-appointed Senators were severally introduced and took their seats:

Hon. Robert Forke, of Pipestone, Manitoba, introduced by Hon. R. Dandurand and Hon. J. P. Molloy.

Hon. Cairine Mackay Wilson, of Ottawa, Ontario, introduced by Hon. R. Dandurand and Right Hon. G. P. Graham.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved:

That all the Senators present during the 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.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, at 3 p.m.