

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, March 12, 1931

SECOND SESSION—SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued from time to time to the 12th day of March, 1931, met this day at Ottawa, for the despatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. SPEAKER read a communication from the acting secretary to the Administrator, announcing that the Right Honourable Lyman P. Duff, Administrator, would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the Dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Administrator desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

VACANCIES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that during the recess I received communications from several members, notifying me that the following vacancies had occurred in the representation viz:

Of George Septimus Rennie, member for the electoral district of Hamilton East, by decease, and

Arthur Bettez, member for the electoral district of Three Rivers-St. Maurice, by decease.

I accordingly issued my several warrants to the Chief Electoral Officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts, respectively.

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OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Administrator this day in the Senate chamber His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I welcome you to your duties at a time when the nations of the world are passing through a period of great economic depression. Canada has not escaped it. But the Canadian people have met the trials of the moment with patience and fortitude, and are facing the future with the courage and faith which must triumph over every difficulty. In prosperity they were united. In adversity that union is made still stronger by the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding which is the surest bulwark of the nation's welfare and happiness.

These attributes of Canadianism are national assets of real value, and, upon their possession, I do profoundly congratulate you.

It will be your privilege to consider certain measures designed by my ministers to ameliorate existing conditions, to provide further means by which our people may go forward to achieve a prosperity heretofore unattained and to furnish them with all possible safeguards against a recurrence of the present subordination to world forces.

The fact that in this period of universal distress Canada has been spared the same acute degree of hardship which many other nations have been called upon to bear, will not, I know, blind you to the fact that between this country as it is and as it should be, there is a gulf to be bridged by the industry and zeal of all those who have the welfare of the nation in their keeping. The problems which stand between us and ultimate prosperity are manifold and great. To be effectually met, they must first be understood. Confusion between cause and effect will but delay their solution.