

important matters likely to be submitted for consideration, that the speech is intended. It is quite appropriate that it should give, as the speech before us does give, some account of the condition of the times as a sort of background or general setting to the different measures that may be considered during the session. As I am going to take exception to some of the statements in the speech, I desire again to make it perfectly clear that in so doing I am not taking exception to any act of His Excellency the Governor General. There is an old constitutional maxim, "the king can do no wrong," and in this country the king's representative in matters of state can do no wrong so long as he acts on the advice of the Prime Minister; and in presenting to parliament the speech which has been delivered, His Majesty's representative in Canada has simply presented the speech which has been put into his hands by the right hon. the Prime Minister.

There is in the speech one paragraph which being personal to His Excellency, has in all probability, been written by His Excellency himself. It has had the approval of the Prime Minister and may have been written by the Prime Minister at the request of His Excellency. It is the first paragraph in the speech. With what is expressed in that paragraph all hon. members will be in hearty accord. We warmly welcome the kindly expression which, with respect to his arrival in Canada and recognition of the manner in which he has been received here, has come from the king's representative to the people of the country. May I say that the people of Canada most warmly reciprocate towards His Excellency the sentiments which he, as His Majesty's representative, has expressed.

Passing from the introductory paragraph, the speech, it will be seen, falls into three main divisions. The first portion in point of importance sets forth what may be described as the legislative program. This happens to be the briefest part of the speech. Another portion deals with subjects of general interest which are likely to receive a good deal of attention during this session. The third portion consists of a number of general statements, in the nature of assertions and affirmations, some of which are true and some of which I think are untrue. I shall have a word to say later on in the course of my remarks with regard to these statements.

It is not necessary, but it is a custom sometimes followed, to have an amendment moved to the speech from the throne. This year, I believe the people of Canada are anxious

that parliament shall get down to business as quickly as possible and that as little time as possible shall be lost in preliminary discussion. If the opposition follows the course which up to the present it has proposed to follow and does not present an amendment, it will not be because we agree with what is in the speech or with many of the government's policies, but simply to show that we approve of His Excellency's part in delivering the speech and wish, after thanking His Excellency for it, to get on with the country's business as rapidly as may be possible. We will reserve to some other time, possibly on occasions of going into supply, what we wish to say with regard to a number of matters.

As I have said, the speech is brief. I shall endeavour to follow an example which I think is a good one, and if possible be briefer than usual in my own remarks. I shall take up the different features of the speech in the order I have indicated.

First of all, I shall deal with the legislative program. It is embraced, so far as actual mention of measures is concerned, in three paragraphs.

The first paragraph reads as follows:

The Geneva Narcotics Convention of 1931, the Red Cross, Prisoners of War and other conventions, will be submitted for your approval.

We may as well take the legislation of that paragraph as read and accepted. In so far as this side of the house is concerned we are ready to approve these conventions immediately. We know all about them already and in taking them up we need not spend any time beyond what is necessary for the purpose of the formal approval which has to be given by parliament.

The next paragraph reads as follows:

Among the other measures to which your attention will be invited will be a bill relating to insurance, and bills relating to patents and trade marks.

In regard to these measures we shall, of course, have to wait until they are before us and we have opportunity to see what their provisions are. I imagine that they will be controversial not so much in a party sense as in connection with some of the important provisions they contain, and that they will be referred for consideration to either a special or a standing committee. I doubt if except as regards the insurance measure much time of the house will need to be taken up in the consideration of these measures.

The next paragraph reads as follows:

You will also be asked to consider bills to amend the Canada Shipping Act and the Fisheries Act.