

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Thursday, January 14, 1937.

The Parliament of Canada having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the despatch of business:

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the session of the Dominion Parliament this day at three o'clock.

NEW SENATOR INTRODUCED

Hon. Adrian Knatchbull Hugessen, K.C., of Inkerman, Quebec, introduced by Hon. Raoul Dandurand and Right Hon. George P. Graham.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Second Session of the Eighteenth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

It affords me much pleasure to meet you at the commencement of another session of Parliament.

The people of Canada, in common with the peoples of the other parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations, learned with deep

concern of the decision of His Majesty King Edward the Eighth to renounce the Throne for himself and his descendants. In accordance with the Statute of Westminster, steps were immediately taken to set forth the request and consent of Canada to the enactment of legislation by the Parliament at Westminster for the purpose of giving effect to His Majesty's instrument of abdication and providing for the succession to the Throne. In accordance with the same statute, the assent of the Parliament of Canada will be sought to the alteration in the law touching the succession.

You will be invited to adopt a resolution expressive of the loyalty of the members of both Houses of Parliament to His Majesty King George the Sixth.

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to set the twelfth of May as the date for his Coronation. Provision will be recommended for the appropriate representation of Canada at the Coronation ceremonies.

An Imperial Conference will be held in London, beginning in May of this year, for the consideration of questions of interest to the various members of the British Commonwealth.

The international situation continues to give much ground for anxiety. The September Assembly of the League of Nations gave earnest consideration to the bearing of recent developments upon the activities of the League, and a committee was appointed, on which Canada is represented, to consider the question of the application of the principles of the Covenant.

Happily, international relations on this continent, and conditions in Canada, present a striking contrast to those of many other countries.

The visit of the President of the United States to Canada in July last was a much appreciated expression of international friendliness and good-will.

The year just closed has witnessed a steady improvement in conditions throughout Canada, and has borne testimony to the beneficial effects of the fiscal policies of the Administration, and of other methods employed to achieve national recovery. A very definite restoration of confidence is in itself an augury of the continuance of recovery.

A marked increase in trade and commerce has been accompanied by a noticeable improvement in the general economic position. Outstanding features of this improvement have been an expansion of markets, a revival of industry, an increase in employment, ascending government revenues, and upward trends in wages and prices. In the primary industries improvement has been especially noteworthy.