

## CANADA

# The Debates of the Senate

## OFFICIAL REPORT

### THE SENATE

Thursday, February 28, 1924.

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.

#### NEW SENATOR INTRODUCED

Hon. Jean Léon Côté, of Edmonton, Alberta, introduced by Hon. Mr. Dandurand and Hon. Mr. DeVeber.

#### 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 formally the Session of the Dominion Parliament this day at 3 o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the sitting was resumed.

#### 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 Third Session of the Fourteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following Speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of The House of Commons:

I am glad to be able to congratulate you upon the many evidences of increased prosperity. Though the general economic situation still reflects the consequences of the World War, the records of production, trade, transportation, employment and public finance have been uniformly increasingly favourable throughout the Dominion. The state of general employment

has been distinctly better. The volume of business has steadily increased. Especially has the country reason to feel gratified at the expansion to a notable degree of its public revenues and decline of its expenditures.

I am persuaded that a reduction in taxation, and in production and transportation costs, such as will encourage the investment of capital in industrial enterprise and attract settlers in large numbers to our Dominion, are all that are necessary to effect an economic development hitherto unparalleled.

My Ministers are strongly of the opinion that a reduction of taxation is of first importance, and that to this end the efforts already put forth to combine strict economy in the administration of the public services with rigorous retrenchment in public expenditures, should be furthered in as many directions as may be possible. This is the more imperative, in that the margin of controllable expenditure within which economies can be effected is necessarily restricted.

My Ministers believe, however, that in virtue of economies already effected they will, when the present financial year closes, be able to announce to the country that for the first time since 1912-13 the national budget has been balanced. They are further of the opinion that when the budget for the ensuing fiscal year is introduced it will be found that the relation between public revenue and public expenditure is such as to justify some immediate reduction of taxation.

In the opinion of the Government, such reduction of taxation as it may be possible to effect should aim primarily at reducing the cost of the instruments of production in the industries based on the natural resources of the Dominion, thereby aiding materially in the development of our natural resources, and, through cheapened production, effecting a diminution also in the cost of living.

Legislation will be introduced making provision for consolidation of the revenue collecting services of the Government under one administrative head. With a view to simplifying and improving the existing system, it is also proposed to constitute a Board to investigate and study the various modes of taxation.

National unity, not less than national prosperity, depends upon the surmounting of those barriers which have tended to separate Western from Eastern Canada and to discourage permanent settlement upon the land. Foremost in this regard are the problems incidental to tariff readjustments and to the marketing of agricultural and other natural products.

The stabilization and control of freight rates on grain from the head of the Great Lakes to Canadian ocean ports and thence to Liverpool, are receiving the closest attention. It is hoped that the Report of the Royal Grain Inquiry Commission authorized last Session to inquire into the subject of the handling and marketing of grain will be available for presentation to Parliament this Session, and that legislation based upon its recommendations may be offered for your consideration.