

An investigation is being conducted by the Department of Labour into systems of Unemployment Insurance and Old Age Pensions.

There will be submitted to you for approval the important agreement concluded last year with the Governments of the British West Indian Colonies for the purpose of drawing still closer the trade relations between Canada and these Colonies and of improving the means of communication and intercourse.

The First Assembly of the League of Nations was recently held at Geneva. Representatives of forty-one nations, including those of Canada, met and deliberated together in a spirit of harmony that promises much for this great experiment. Much time was necessarily devoted to the work of organization, but other measures were also agreed upon which are calculated to promote stability and good will in international intercourse. Most important of these is the draft scheme for the establishment of a Permanent Court of International Justice which will be submitted to you for approval at an early date.

My advisers are convinced of the necessity for revision of the Customs tariff. In order to secure the most complete information a Committee has conducted an extensive and thorough inquiry, and has secured the views of all parties and interests in every Province. The hearings necessary for this purpose have now been completed, and the conclusions founded thereon will be submitted to you in due course. It is the opinion of my advisers that in such revision regard must be had to the necessities of revenue and as well that the principle of protection to Canadian labour and legitimate Canadian industries, including agriculture, which has prevailed for more than forty years in this country, must be consistently maintained; but that the Customs duties imposed to that end should be no higher than is essential to ensure good standards of living among our working population and to retain and make possible the normal expansion of the industries in which they find employment.

A Bill for the repeal of the Conservation Act will be submitted to you, there being provision made for carrying on the essential functions of the Commission of Conservation in the appropriate Departments of the Government. This measure will, therefore, avoid very considerable duplication of services, and permit consequent saving of expense without detriment to the public advantage.

A Bill amending the Dominion Elections Act to provide for necessary revision of the electoral lists applicable to the vote shortly to be held in the Province of Ontario respecting the Canada Temperance Act will be submitted to you.

Bills relating to Copyrights, the simplification and consolidation of the Income War Tax Act, 1917, and amending Acts, Scientific Research and other matters will be submitted to you.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts of the last fiscal year will be laid before you. Estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted at an early date, making provision for the various services of government. These have been formed with a view to strict economy, having due regard to the obligations of the country and the exigencies of the public service, and any possible contraction, following the expansion of the period of the war, has been diligently sought.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In inviting your careful consideration of the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that Divine Providence may direct and prosper all your consultations to the safety, honour, and welfare of our Sovereign and this Dominion.