

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 20, 1930.

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.

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.

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 Fourth Session of the Sixteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following Speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

It affords me much pleasure to greet you at the commencement of another session of parliament, and to be able to congratulate you upon the continued prosperity of the country. The year 1929 was the most productive year in the history of Canada. In industries, other than agriculture, employment reached the highest point on record; new construction was the largest known. Mining production was of unequalled value. Manufacturing production surpassed all previous records. There was vast increase in the development of hydro-electric power. The products of our fields and our herds reached higher standards of excellence and quality than at any previous time. The

Dominion is already recovering from the seasonal slackness evident at the end of the year, and it is not to be forgotten that the bulk of the 1929 wheat crop still remains in Canadian hands for final disposition.

Our trade with foreign countries has shown marked increase. During the year additional Trade Commissioners' offices have been opened in several countries, and additional steamship services inaugurated to Australia and South America. Tenders have been called for proposed extensions of steamship services to India and British East Africa.

Our two railway systems have carried out extensive construction and development plans, and are contemplating further construction and developments. The final section of the Hudson Bay Railway has been completed. The construction of the Welland Ship Canal is now nearing completion. On the opening of the new canal the Upper Lake grain carriers will be able to reach Lake Ontario and Upper St. Lawrence ports. The work of providing suitable terminals is proceeding.

Legislation will be introduced respecting the several railway properties formerly privately owned and now embraced in the Canadian National Railway System.

For some time past my Ministers have been giving special attention to those problems which, for many years, have been a source of controversy between the provinces of Canada and the Dominion. Among matters of concern have been certain economic and financial readjustments deemed by the provinces essential to their being placed in a position of equality one with the other. To a greater or lesser extent, problems have arisen with respect to all the provinces of Canada. Those of the Maritime Provinces were investigated by the Royal Commission on Maritime Claims and have been in large part solved by the effect given to the recommendations of that body. Consideration is at present being given to the final revision of the financial arrangements contemplated by the Commission's report.

The provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have negotiated for many years with the Government of Canada for the return of their natural resources. The Province of British Columbia has sought the restoration to the province of lands comprising what is known as the railway belt and Peace River block. With the Provinces of Manitoba and Alberta and with the Province of British Columbia agreements have been reached, which will be submitted to you for approval. An offer similar in character and terms to that accepted by Alberta has been made to Saskatchewan with respect to the transfer to that province of its natural resources.

The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec have been concerned over the question of water