

THE SENATE.*Ottawa, Tuesday, February 12, 1901.*

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

MANITOBA SCHOOL LANDS.**INQUIRY.**

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL inquired :

If the commissioners appointed by the government to investigate and inquire into the irregularities and frauds alleged to have been committed in connection with the sale by public auction of school lands in the province of Manitoba, in the year 1900, have made their final or partial report. If so, will it be laid upon the Table of the Senate, and when?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No report has so far been received from Judge Prendergast, the commissioner appointed to investigate the alleged irregularities in connection with the school lands sales in June last. The only information we have is a letter from Judge Prendergast, dated December 10 last, copy herewith, in reply to one from the department asking him whether it would not be possible for him to report on the result of his investigations in regard to the sales at each place as soon as it was concluded without waiting until he had finished his investigation of the twenty-two different auction sales throughout the province. He states that he cannot do so for the reasons given in his letter, but will say that at eight points of sale, namely : Minnedosa, Birtle, Rapid City, Gladstone, Portage la Prairie, McGregor, Carberry and Virden, at which points he held sittings no complaints were made. Judge Prendergast's report is expected very shortly and a copy of it will be laid upon the Table of the Senate.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.**MOTION.**

Hon. Mr. MILLS moved :

That pursuant to Rule 79, the following senators be appointed a committee of selection, to nominate the senators to serve on the several standing committees, namely :—The Honourable Messieurs Pelletier, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Bolduc, Loughheed, Miller, Ferguson, King, Scott, and the mover; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

The motion was agreed to.

THE DEATH OF QUEEN VICTORIA.**RESOLUTION.**

The Order of the Day being called,

Consideration of the Message from the House of Commons that an address be presented to His Most Excellent Majesty the King expressing the deep and heartfelt sorrow of this House at the demise of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, and requesting that the Senate will unite with the House of Commons in the said address.

Hon. Mr. MILLS said : It is my duty, in moving this address, to refer to the long and distinguished reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. Her reign was the longest and most important in the annals of England. Her Majesty was eminently a constitutional ruler. Before she came to the Throne, the principles of parliamentary government and of ministerial responsibility, as we now understand them, had become fairly well settled. There were occasional instances in which royal authority had made inroads into the settled practices of the constitution, but they were of short duration, and the current had set in so strongly in favour of ministerial responsibility and ministerial control, based upon the supremacy of the House of Commons, that it was impossible to overturn the system, which now rested upon secure foundations.

There have been other reigns in which great military operations were carried on and great victories achieved, but there has been no other reign in the annals of England in which the well-being of the people was so carefully considered, and in which it constantly remained paramount. Within the closing years of the reign of George II., and in the beginning of that of George III., the British Empire had been greatly expanded, and the British islands had become one of the most powerful states in Christendom. A large portion of the continent of North America was under the jurisdiction of the Crown in parliament. That condition of things, which had been brought about by the active co-operation of the colonial authorities with the parent state, was overthrown. The Imperial government did not deign to invite the co-operation of the North American colonies, in meeting the new burdens which the recent wars had occasioned, but the immediate subordination of the colonies was asserted, and the right of the Imperial parliament to deter-