

in excess of that attained at any time in the past.

Although there has been some damage to the crops in certain districts, the harvest has on the whole been abundant, and it is believed that the returns to the husbandman will exceed those secured in any previous year.

The results of the census taken during the present year will be laid before you, so far as they have been tabulated. While the increase in population has not fulfilled all the sanguine expectations that had been formed, yet it has been substantial and encouraging.

You will be pleased to learn that the revenues for the current fiscal year have, up to the present, largely exceeded those during any similar period in the past, with every prospect that this increase will be maintained.

The advantages that would result from a wider exchange of products between the various countries of the empire are undoubted, in view of the wonderful variety and extent of those productions, and negotiations have been opened for improved trade arrangements with the British West Indies and British Guiana, which should prove advantageous to those colonies as well as to this Dominion.

The importance of providing our country with better highways is manifest. A Bill will be introduced for the purpose of enabling the Dominion to co-operate with the provinces in the accomplishment of this desirable object.

It is essential to recognize that, in a country possessing so great an area of fertile land as that with which this Dominion is happily endowed, the great basic industry is agriculture. My advisers are convinced that the time has come when greater aid and encouragement should be given to those who are engaged in the cultivation of the land. To this end, a measure will be introduced under which it is hoped that there may be co-operation between the Dominion and the various provinces, for the purpose of assisting and encouraging our farmers to secure the best results in production, and at the same time preserve the fertility of the soil.

A measure will be introduced revising and consolidating the Acts relating to the inspection of grain and providing the means by which the government can secure, through a commission, the control and operation of the terminal elevators upon the Great Lakes.

A Bill will be introduced to establish a permanent tariff commission, whose duty it shall be to ascertain, by investigation and inquiry, such information as will furnish a more stable

and satisfactory basis for tariff legislation than has heretofore been available.

Bills will also be laid before you with respect to the Department of External Affairs, the Archives and other subjects.

The selection of the best route for the Hudson Bay railway is engaging the attention of my advisers, and an announcement will be made to you of the result of their inquiry.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts of the last year will be laid before you.

The balance of the estimates for the current fiscal year, as well as the estimates for the coming year, will be submitted for your approval at an early date.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I commend the subjects, which I have mentioned, to your best consideration, and I trust that your deliberations, under the blessing of Divine Providence, may tend to the welfare and good government of this Dominion.

His Royal Highness was pleased to retire and the House of Commons withdrew.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

#### BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill ( ) An Act relating to Railways—(Hon. Mr. Lougheed).

Bill (A) An Act respecting the Pollution of Navigable Waters.—(Hon. Mr. Belcourt).

#### COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.

##### MOTION.

Mr. LOUGHEED moved,

That pursuant to Rule 77, the following senators, the Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the Honourable Messieurs Gibson, Beique, Miller, Power, Watson, Casgrain, Ross (Moosejaw) and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday next at 3 o'clock.