

And also,—A message acquainting this House that His Honour the Speaker, the Honourable Messieurs Blain, Green, Hardy, Loughheed (Sir James), Sharpe, and Watson, have been appointed a committee to assist His Honour the Speaker in the direction of the Restaurant of parliament, so far as the interests of the Senate are concerned, and to act on behalf of the Senate as members of a joint committee of both Houses on the said Restaurant.

FRANCE-CANADA CONVENTION

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor General, which was read by Mr. Speaker, as follows:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OTTAWA, February, 1st, 1923.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a copy of a Convention of Commerce between France and Canada, entered into at Paris on the 15th day of December in the year 1922 between His Majesty the King and the President of the French Republic.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Annual Report of the Department of Health, and copy of Regulations under the Proprietary and Patent Medicines Act.—Hon. Mr. Béland.

Report of the Department of the Secretary of State for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1922.—Hon. Mr. Copp.

Ordinances of the Yukon Territory, passed by the Yukon Council, second session 1921, and in the year 1922.—Hon. Mr. Copp.

Report of the Public Archives for the year 1921.—Hon. Mr. Copp.

Order in Council dated June 29, 1922, under the Soldier Settlement Act.—Hon. Mr. Stewart.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Vancouver Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 2, to amend the Railway Act.

Mr. GRAHAM: Will the hon. member please explain the bill?

Mr. STEVENS: Briefly, the purpose of the bill is to correct what appears to be rather an awkward and anomalous situation that exists by virtue of certain words in the Railway Act. The Railway Act provides that the Board of Railway Commissioners shall determine the question of freight rates and contains certain clauses against discrimination. But in every case in which the word "discrimination" appears, it is preceded by some qualifying word such as "unfavourable," "undue," "unjust." This bill proposes to remove these qualifying words, so that the effect will be an absolute provision against discrimination in the matter of freight rates.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

LAUSANNE CONFERENCE

'On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Centre Winnipeg): Has the government any information regarding the failure of negotiations at Lausanne?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Such information as the government has in respect of the proceedings at Lausanne is to all intents and purposes the same as what has appeared in the press.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH ADDRESS IN REPLY

Consideration of the motion of Mr. Putnam for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session, resumed from Friday, February 2.

Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (Acting Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, in addressing myself to the motion before the House I cannot but feel that in dealing with the question which will form the greater part of my remarks I am speaking for another who is not now with us. The words I am about to utter will be in confirmation of his businesslike management of the department over which he so ably presided. I would not for one moment, Sir, mar the effect of the eloquent tributes to the departed, delivered by the three leaders, by any commonplace words of my own. Never in all my life have I heard more eloquent tributes more thoroughly deserved, and I concur in everything that was said in recognition of the personal worth and ability of our former comrade.

To those young members who have just entered the House of Commons I, with other speakers, tender my hearty congratulations and welcome. Young men can enter no better school for the development of their sum of knowledge and their intellect than this House; and, Sir, notwithstanding criticisms that we often hear of the calibre of the men in the Canadian parliament, as a man who has been in public life for some years, I believe that the membership of our two Houses will compare favourably with the membership of any other legislative body in the world. The two members who moved and seconded the Address in this House, as is usual, brought to their task both eloquence and information, and we look to them to be in the future a great strength not only by their debating ability, but for the quota of