

The Address

late Government and the Government of Australia with respect to reciprocal trade relations between Australia and Canada. I have gathered together such papers as I am able to find in the Department, but the file does not appear to be complete, and I have asked that further search be made for other papers. Those that I am now bringing down are the only papers that thus far have come to my notice.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): I mentioned as well correspondence between members of the late Government and myself. I refer particularly to correspondence that passed between the Acting Prime Minister and myself while I was at the Imperial Conference.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is the correspondence which I have just brought down.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY Mr. E. J. McMURRAY, SECONDED BY Mr. PAUL MERCIER.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. E. J. McMURRAY (North Winnipeg) moved:

That an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, offering the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is customary, and courtesy requires, that as mover of this Address I should express the appreciation of my constituents and myself for the high honour that has been done to them and to me. This constituency of North Winnipeg which I represent is one of the most cosmopolitan in Canada by reason of the varied ethnic elements of its population, many of them people from Central Europe, who, as new Canadians, I am pleased to say, Sir, are rapidly acquiring the manners, characteristics and habits of old Canadians; and because of their racial origin they appreciate very much the honour that has been paid to them by having their representative move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

It is a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate you, and to congratulate ourselves, upon your appointment as first

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Commoner. Your wide experience as a parliamentarian, as a cabinet minister, and as a barrister will be of inestimable service to us as we deliberate in this assembly, and I trust, Sir, that you will be long spared to give us your advice and guidance.

The poet has said:

The old order changeth giving place to the new;

and we have in this House for the first time a lady member—the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail). I am sure that when I say we all appreciate her presence here my words find an echo in the hearts of all.

During the past year the term of Governor Generalship of the Duke of Devonshire, who and whose family in many ways have been connected with Canadian life, terminated. Baron Byng of Vimy, a man who as commander of our gallant divisions in the war had won a high place in the hearts of the Canadian people, has succeeded to that office. I am sure, Sir, that it will be filled by him with satisfaction to us, and I trust that his tenure of office will be pleasureable to himself and to his family.

This new Parliament, the first expression of the will of the Canadian people after the war, meets under unusual circumstances. Both at home and abroad conditions are abnormal. Four years of war have rendered Europe not the Europe of old. International trade had drawn us close together, the world had grown smaller. Any serious disturbance of trade or of affairs in Europe must affect every nation, and we in that regard have been affected with the rest. Those circumstances and conditions we cannot control. But throughout the whole of her history Europe has survived tremendous catastrophes; there is in European civilization an inherent strength, a capacity to re-establish itself. Already the situation is clarifying; already the stars are beginning to shine in Europe's dark night. The Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armaments, which has just closed, is, let us hope, the morning star that ushers in the dawn of a day of international harmony and concord. The reference to that Conference in the Speech from the Throne is a matter of satisfaction. I was particularly struck with the intimation that the treaties there arranged are to be submitted to the consideration of this House; it is a vindication of the assertion that has been made by Mr. Lloyd