

Committee of Selection to nominate Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session: Hon. Messieurs Béique, Bostock, Belcourt, Daniel, Robertson, Tanner, Watson, Wiloughby, and the mover.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at three o'clock, p.m.

THE SENATE.

Tuesday, September 2, 1919.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. FREDERIC NICHOLLS: Honourable gentlemen, in rising to move that a vote of thanks be presented to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I want, first of all, to thank the honourable the leader of the Government for the honour accorded to me in selecting me to make this motion, particularly because I believe the present session of Parliament marks an epoch in the advancement of Canada to a dignified position among the great nations of the world. The fact that for the first time in the history of this country we have departed from the status of a colony and have entered upon the status of one of the great powers is evidenced by the fact that the Parliament of Canada has been called together to consider a treaty of peace and to ratify it if it so elects.

Another reason why I consider that this is a very important session is because we have recently been honoured by the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales who yesterday laid the corner stone of the tower of the new Parliament Building. In the Speech from the Throne His Excellency refers to this visit, saying:

In this, his first visit to our Dominion, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at once renews happy associations with his comrades of the Canadian Army, and at the same time undertakes the important duty of making himself acquainted at first hand with the resources and development of our country, and with the ideals and aspirations of our people.

In 1860, fifty-nine years ago, Albert Edward, then Prince of Wales, laid the cor-

ner stone of the old Parliament Building, which a few years since was destroyed by fire. The Prince of Wales of that day afterwards ascended the Throne as His Majesty King Edward the Seventh, reigned wisely and well, was beloved by his people during his lifetime, and was sincerely mourned at his death. Yesterday we all attended a brilliant function when the corner stone of the new Parliament Building, which we hope soon to occupy, was laid by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Many material changes have taken place in the destiny of the Dominion during the time that has intervened between these two important functions. But honourable gentlemen will agree with me when I say that no change whatever has taken place during that interval of fifty-nine years in the fervent loyalty of the Canadian people to the British Empire, to our King, and to the Royal family; and, honourable gentlemen, the manifestations of loyalty and affection which have been witnessed during the recent visit of His Royal Highness prove to my mind beyond all doubt that British connection is our chosen destiny.

His Royal Highness, while young in years, has played a man's part during the war, and notwithstanding his exalted station has served with distinction at the front; and, in my opinion, the fact that during part of that time he was attached to our Canadian army, and also the fact that since his arrival in Canada he has expressed the desire to be known as Canadian in sentiment, will render the occasion of his departure from our shores one of national regret; and that when the time comes to bid him Godspeed, all of us will echo in our hearts the words "Au revoir," and not "Good-bye."

There have been many material changes in the life of Canada since 1860; for seven years thereafter a nation was born; when the Act of Confederation was passed, which bound together the scattered provinces of British North America; and since that time so many changes, always for our betterment, have occurred that even the most optimistic of those virile and far-sighted statesmen who have since come to be known as the Fathers of Confederation could not have conceived of the important rôle Canada was destined to play during the lifetime of a single generation.

Honourable gentlemen, I have here an official copy of what I believe to be the greatest document the world has ever seen: a synopsis of the Treaty of Peace with Ger-