

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 12, 1929.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS BILL

FIRST READING

Bill B, an Act to amend certain provisions of the Criminal Code respecting the possession of weapons.—Hon. Mr. Belcourt.

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. HANCE JAMES LOGAN moved:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer 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; namely:

To His Excellency The Right Honourable Viscount Willingdon, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, I desire to express my heartfelt appreciation of being chosen to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

We are to-day meeting with a spirit of thankfulness in our hearts occasioned by the recovery, so far, of His Majesty King George the Fifth. Our sovereign has been a true king. At the most trying time in the British Empire in the last one hundred years he showed his strength, worth, and good judgment. In Europe, during the war, thrones tottered and fell; kings were banished and republican forms of government established, but King George not only remained as the King of the British Empire, but also became more firmly enthroned in the hearts of his subjects in all parts of the world. Perhaps we

did not realize so much what this meant to us until he was stricken by dread disease. It was then that the Empire realized what he meant as a monarch. Not only at the gates of Buckingham Palace did thousands of his subjects patiently wait for each succeeding bulletin, but throughout the Empire the greatest anxiety was felt, and the love of his people was expressed in humble prayers for the saving of his life. And to-day, as he is, we hope, recuperating down by the seashore in southern England, British subjects throughout the whole world say, "Thank God," and the subjects of other nations have learned as never before to respect our form of monarchical government. No sovereign in all history has been more affectionately regarded by his people than King George. The cheers from the thousands who lined the streets along which His Majesty passed on his way to Bognor on Saturday last were re-echoed in millions of hearts throughout the great Empire. That the sea air will bring to him health and strength is the prayer of us all.

Complaint has been made that the Speech from the Throne does not contain very much. Well, when prosperity reigns it is sometimes wise to let well enough alone.

Never before in Canada has there been such commercial and industrial development as that which has taken place during the past year. From a national standpoint this is indicated by the reduction of the public debt by over sixty millions of dollars. The prosperity of Canada is largely indicated by the condition of its railways. Since the reorganization of the Canadian National Railway system operating surpluses have replaced operating deficits. At December 31 last the operating surpluses for the six-year period subsequent to the change of management aggregated \$162,844,008, and for the year ending December 31, 1928, the operating surplus amounted to \$53,000,000, as compared with an operating deficit of \$34,532,703 in 1920. Thus there has been a betterment of nearly ninety millions of dollars in the operation of our great national railway system.

I am particularly interested in the paragraph of the Speech from the Throne which reads as follows:

The past year witnessed the inauguration of the Canadian National Steamships service between Canada and Bermuda and the West Indies. The many advantages of this service are already apparent. In view of the importance of our ever increasing export trade it is intended to augment and extend the existing facilities for furnishing Canadian exporters with commercial information in respect to foreign markets. It is also proposed to establish additional Trade Commissioner offices at strategic points in different parts of the world.