

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted after Parliament has reassembled. These estimates will reflect the continuance of the policy of my Ministers to exercise every economy, compatible with the proper administration of the State, until more favourable economic conditions shall have materially augmented the current national revenues.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

While the economic situation still weighs heavily upon all classes of the community, there are at last definite signs that the acuteness of the depression is passing. I rejoice that the wisdom of your steadfast policy of retrenchment and constructive development, which has ameliorated the hardships of Canadians and maintained the enviable financial position of this country, is still more fully manifest with approaching prosperity. The strength of our financial structure, the resourcefulness of agriculture, and the integrity of industry have enabled us to take quick and profitable advantage of improved conditions. The ratification of Empire trade agreements and your approval of the proposed economies and reforms in railway transportation are means by which Canada's favoured position will be more fully secured among the nations of the world.

The unity, fortitude and capacity of the Canadian people, without which all your labours would have been in vain, shall be now the foundation upon which, with co-operation and faith, we will build a Canada greater than we have yet known. I pray that Divine Providence may guide you in your exalted task.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

RAILWAY BILL

FIRST READING

Bill —, an Act relating to Railways.—Right Hon. Mr. Meighen.

CONSIDERATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

On motion of Right Hon. Mr. Meighen, it was ordered that the speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the House.

The Senate adjourned until Wednesday, October 12, at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Wednesday, October 12, 1932.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

The Hon. the SPEAKER.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved:

That all the senators present during the session be appointed a committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

The motion was agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved:

That the following senators be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate senators to serve on the several standing committees during the present session: the Honourable Messieurs Beaubien, Buchanan, Dandurand, Daniel, Graham, Little, Sharpe, White (Pembroke), and the mover.

The motion was agreed to.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED SENATORS

THE LATE SENATORS WILLOUGHBY AND BELCOURT

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, even though it may not be in full accordance with the practice of this House, it seems to me appropriate that the occasion should be seized to make fitting reference to two of our number who have departed this life since we last met. Similar occasions are all too frequent, their occurrence amounting almost to regularity, but those who have recently passed from us were two of the foremost and most distinguished members of the Upper House. I refer to the late Senator Willoughby and the late Senator Belcourt.

Senator Willoughby occupied the high post of Leader of this House, and had previously held posts of great prominence in the public life of his province and of the Dominion. His early life, as we all know, was spent in the Province of Ontario. His inheritance was the usual lot of the country boy in this Dominion, and from the humble circumstances of his youth, by dint of native ability and concentrated effort, he marched steadily to posts of distinction not only in the professional but also in the industrial and the political life of our land. For a long period of years he occupied a high place at the Bar of the Province of Saskatchewan.

As a young man he essayed the political arena by contesting the old county of Cardwell for the Dominion House, but in this he was unsuccessful. He entered public life in 1912, when he was elected to the Legislature of Saskatchewan from the city of Moosejaw.