

House of Commons Debates

SECOND SESSION—TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, November 21, 1912.

The Parliament which had been prorogued from time to time to the 21st day of November, 1912, met this day for the despatch of business.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a communication from the secretary of His Royal Highness the Governor General as follows:

Ottawa, 21st November, 1912.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that His Royal Highness the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber formally to open the session of the Dominion Parliament on Thursday, the 21st inst., at three o'clock.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. LOWTHER, Lt.-Col.,

Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable the Speaker
of the House of Commons.

A message was delivered by Major Ernest J. Chambers, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Royal Highness the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And the House being returned to the Commons Chamber:

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the House having attended His Royal Highness in the Senate Chamber, His Royal Highness was pleased to deliver a Speech to both Houses of Parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy which is as follows:

Honourable Gentleman of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I have during the past summer spent several months in visiting the principal cities and towns of Canada from coast to coast, and have endeavoured to make myself as far as possible acquainted with the conditions prevailing.

It has been a source of the deepest satisfaction to me to see the almost universal prosperity which reigns throughout the Dominion, and to witness the energy and enterprise which are shown in the developing the rich resources of the land.

It is most gratifying to observe that the trade of the Dominion is increasing rapidly and steadily, the aggregate trade for the last fiscal year being the largest on record. During the present year the same steady increase has been noted, and it is anticipated that the total volume of our trade for the present fiscal year will greatly surpass that of any previous year in our history.

The revenues of the Dominion continue to expand, and in every branch of business and industry there is a remarkable activity which gives assurance of continued progress and prosperity.

A copious and welcome stream of immigration has poured into our country during the past summer. The volume of immigration during the present year is greater than during any corresponding period of our history, and in larger measure than usual it has been drawn from the British Islands.

The labours of the husbandman have been blessed with an ample return; and, although in some districts the weather has been unpropitious for the harvest, it is expected that the total value of our field crops will be greater than in any previous year.

Papers will be laid before you which embody trade arrangements that have been consummated between the Dominion and certain of His Majesty's possessions in the West Indies. It is hoped that these arrangements will prove of great advantage not only to those possessions, but to Canada as well. A Bill will be introduced for the purpose of carrying this agreement into effect.

During the past summer four members of my government conferred in London with His Majesty's government on the question of Naval Defence. Important discussions took place and conditions have been disclosed which in the opinion of my advisers render it imperative that the effective naval forces of the Empire should be strengthened without delay. My advisers are convinced that it is the duty of Canada at this juncture to afford reason-