

THE SENATE DEBATES

FIFTH SESSION—TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, February 4, 1915.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Two-thirty p.m.

Prayers.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Royal Highness the Governor General being seated on the Throne.

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint the House that,—

It is His Royal Highness the Governor General's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.

Who being come, with their Speaker,

His Royal Highness the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

During the months which have elapsed since the outbreak of war, the people of Canada have given most abundant and convincing evidence of their firm loyalty to our Sovereign and of their profound devotion to the institutions of the British Empire.

Since I last addressed you, a Canadian Expeditionary Force of more than thirty thousand men has been safely despatched across the Atlantic, and after arriving in the British Islands has been engaged in completing the necessary training before proceeding to the front. Notwithstanding the unusually severe weather conditions which have prevailed in the British Islands, the training has proceeded satisfactorily and it is anticipated that the force will very shortly take its place in the field of action.

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The earnest and resolute spirit of patriotism which animates the whole Dominion has evoked a magnificent response to the call for service beyond the seas. Large additional forces have been organized from which further contingents are ready to be despatched as soon as the necessary arrangements for receiving them and completing their training can be consummated.

Notwithstanding the inevitable disturbance of trade which was created by the outbreak of war on so vast a scale, the financial and business conditions of the Dominion have shown great stability, and on the whole the country has adapted itself to the new conditions in a very effective way.

My advisers will submit for your consideration measures rendered necessary by the participation of this Dominion in the great task which our Empire has undertaken in this war.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you immediately and the estimates for the net fiscal year will be submitted without delay. You will be asked to make the necessary financial provision for effective aid in the conduct of the war.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The strong unity of purpose which inspires His Majesty's Dominions gives us the firm assurance that the cause for which this war has been undertaken will be maintained to an honourable and successful issue. I commend to your favourable consideration the measures which will be submitted to you for aiding that great purpose, and I pray that the Divine blessing may be vouchsafed to your deliberations.

His Royal Highness the Governor General being pleased to retire, the House of Commons withdrew.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill () An Act relating to Railways.

The Senate adjourned till Tuesday next at three p.m.