

inquire fully into the allegations made by these petitioners.

The Redistribution Bill of last session respecting the representation of the House of Commons will be reintroduced at an early date. Among amendments to be proposed to the Dominion Elections Act will be one providing for the use of the transferable vote in single-member constituencies.

Bills will again be submitted, with respect to the construction of Canadian National Railway lines, the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, and race-track gambling. Your attention will also be invited to amendments to the Government Annuities Act, to provide additional encouragement in the promotion of thrift and self-help, and to amendments to the Militia Act with respect to the calling-out of the militia in aid of the civil power.

The Imperial Conference and the Imperial Economic Conference held in London in the months of October and November last between representatives of the government of the United Kingdom and of the British dominions and India, dealt with many subjects with which the Empire at large is interested. The reports of the proceedings of both conferences will be presented to parliament.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted at an early date.

You will observe that in the preparation of the estimates my advisers have felt the necessity of continuing the policy of rigid economy with respect to public services and public works, and of postponing until such time as a reduction in taxation has been effected some undertakings the early consideration of which are obviously in the public interest.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The prospects of an exceptional harvest, so bright at the close of the last session, have been more than realized. Final information as to the crops of 1923 indicate that they were the most bountiful in Canada's history. In again inviting your careful consideration to the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that the Divine Providence, which has thus favoured our land, may guide and bless your deliberations.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved:

That the Speech of His Excellency, the Governor General, to both Houses of Parliament be taken into consideration on Monday next, and that this order have precedence over all other business except the introduction of bills until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the select standing committees of this House under rule 10, said committee to be composed of Messieurs. Bédard, Copp, Low, Kyte, Papineau, Tolmie, Boys, Johnston (Last Mountain) and Halbert, and that that portion of rule 10 limiting the number of members of the said committee be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

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INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved Minute of Council appointing the Honourable H. S. Bédard, Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment; the Honourable Thomas A. Low, Minister of Trade and Commerce; the Honourable J. H. King, Minister of Public Works and the Honourable John E. Sinclair, Minister without portfolio, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons, as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the eleventh chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, intitled "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

REPORTS

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer in conformity with the Dominion Elections Act.—Mr. Speaker.

Joint Report of the Librarians of Parliament.—Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Sergeant-at-Arms, with my approval, has appointed Edouard Taschereau, Esquire, to be his deputy during the present session of parliament.

THE LATE MR. AUGUSTE THEOPHILE LEGER

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the brief interval of time which has elapsed since our last session, the hand of death has removed from our midst Mr. Auguste Theophile Leger at the time of his death, member for the constituency of Kent, New Brunswick. Mr. Leger became a member of this House in the general elections of 1917. He was re-elected in the general elections of 1921. Being of a very modest and retiring disposition, he took little part in the debates of the House. When he spoke, however, it was always with vigour, and with equal readiness in either the French or the English language. Few members were more constant in their attendance, and few have sought more faithfully to safeguard and further the interests of their constituents.

Mr. Leger was in his 72nd year at the time of his death. He was well known and highly regarded not only in his own constituency but throughout the Maritime provinces. Throughout his life he took a keen interest in public affairs. He was no stranger to the ups and downs of politics, having contested no less than six elections, three in the provin-