

In the European economic field clear vision is still impossible and the unsettled state of Exchange, the lack of International Credits, and the inflation of paper currency, combined with the scarcity of raw materials and the demoralization of labour and transport conditions, combine to retard production and to restrict the exchange of products necessary for the proper sustenance of life and the rebuilding of the waste and destruction caused by the great war. From every quarter of the world is being impressed, often by severe privation and suffering, the one great lesson that increased production through increased work, combined with thrift and economy in individual and state, is the only sure hope of business improvement and future prosperity.

After four years of war and a year and three months of confusion and dislocation which has succeeded thereto, it is satisfactory to know that business in Canada has been well maintained, that production has been large and that general conditions are on the whole satisfactory. It is cause for thankfulness that of all countries affected by the war, Canada has maintained a record of social order and industrial and commercial prosperity second to none.

The ratification of The International Opium Convention renders it necessary to obtain legislation to carry into effect its provisions relating to the sale of opium, cocaine and other deleterious drugs. A Bill will be laid before you for that purpose.

A Bill to provide for a Dominion Franchise will be introduced, dealing with the qualifications of voters and the procedure necessary to enable all persons legally qualified to register their votes.

Other Bills will be presented for your consideration including a Bill respecting Copyrights and Bills providing for the amendment of the Patent Act, of the Loan and Trust Companies Acts, the Indian Act, and the Exchequer Courts Act.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you. Estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted at an early date, making provisions for the various services of the Government of Canada. These have been formed with a view to strict economy having due regard to the requirements of the public service and the obligations of the Country.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In inviting your careful attention to the important subjects which will engage your attention I pray that the blessings of Divine Providence may attend your deliberations.

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

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

**CONSIDERATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.**

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, it was ordered that the speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration to-morrow.

**MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING.**

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received the following communication from His Majesty King George V:

London, February 23, 1920.

I desire that you will convey to my faithful Senate and House of Commons of Canada my warmest greetings on this the first occasion of their assembly in the new buildings with the erection of which my son is proud to have been associated. It is my firm assurance that the deliberations of the Parliament of Canada will as in the past redound to the happiness and prosperity of the great Dominion whose well-being is so vital to the whole Empire.

George Rex.

**BILL PRO FORMA.**

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED presented a Bill entitled, an Act relating to Railways.

The Bill was read the first time.

**COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES.**

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED 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 ON SELECTION.**

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the following Senators were appointed a Committee on Selection to nominate Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session: Hon. Messieurs. Béique, Belcourt, Bostock, Daniel, Robertson, Tanner, Watson, Wiloughby and the mover.

The Senate adjourned to meet in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons to-morrow at 3 p.m.

**THE SENATE.**

Friday, February 27, 1920.

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

Prayer and routine proceedings.

**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.