

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In bringing to a conclusion the work of the present session of parliament I desire to express my gratification at the many useful and important measures which have been enacted.

The passing of the Bills respecting Treaties with France and Italy completes Canada's part in the desired commercial arrangements. Early completion on the part of the Governments of France and Italy and the exchange of ratifications necessary to give effect to the Treaties are confidently expected. It is anticipated that the operation of these Conventions will promote our trade and increase our good relations with these two nations, which were among our great allies in the late war.

The decennial revision of the Bank Act deservedly received careful attention at your hands. It is confidently hoped that the amendments made, in the light of experience, will, so far as legislation can, provide the safeguards required to ensure the efficiency of the banking system.

The changes made in the customs and excise laws will, it is believed, make for a simplification which is desirable and at the same time strengthen the financial position of the Dominion.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Royal Commission appointed by the Government prior to the opening of the session, legislation has been enacted with respect to lake and river transportation which, it is hoped, will prevent the control of freight rates and insurance upon grain shipments such as has hitherto existed.

The whole subject of the handling and marketing of grain in Canada and other matters incidental to the buying, selling and transportation of grain is being further investigated.

The Act to provide for the investigation of Combines, Monopolies, Trusts and Mergers will afford the public a much needed safeguard against possible undue enhancement of prices or unfair restrictions of trade.

Several legislative enactments in pursuance of the report of the Royal Commission on Pensions and Re-

establishment have shown your desire to take every possible means of fulfilling just obligations towards the ex-service men, and their dependents.

An increasing immigration has been a significant feature of the present year. Agreements have been negotiated with the British Government for co-operation in an Assisted Passage Scheme; and closer co-operation has been effected between the Railways, Shipping Companies and the Department of Immigration and Colonization which, it is anticipated, will produce a large increase in the number of desirable settlers.

It is gratifying to note that the position of the Government railways has steadily improved, as the co-ordination of the national lines and facilities has become increasingly effective.

The important agricultural enactments of the session should prove of substantial service in the development of the fruit, livestock, grain and dairying industries of the country.

The revisions and amendments of the Acts respecting Patents of Invention, Trade Marks and Designs, Copyright, and Naturalization render these measures more effective and give to their provisions a wider international significance.

The approval given the treaty between His Majesty and the United States of America providing effective measures for the preservation of the halibut fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean, and the legislation incidental thereto, make possible the conservation of this great natural resource to the mutual benefit of our country and of our neighbour to the south.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public service.

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The many evidences of a returning prosperity which, with the passing of the months, have become increasingly apparent, are now supplemented by the promise of a bountiful harvest. For these and other blessings I join with you in humble thanksgiving to Divine Providence.