

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Thursday, October 6, 1932.

The Parliament of Canada having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the despatch of business:

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the session of the Dominion Parliament this day at three o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Fourth Session of the Seventeenth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I welcome you to your duties at this season, for my Ministers deem it expedient that you should consider, without delay, the agreements made at the Imperial Economic Conference recently held in this city of Ottawa between Canada and the other countries of the Empire. My Government are of opinion that these agreements provide the means by which will be developed an enduring and mutually beneficial scheme of closer Empire economic association, and that their early approval is advisable in the national interest.

The report of the Royal Commission on Railways and Transportation will be laid before Parliament. In view of the conclusions and recommendations contained in that report

your attention will be invited, at the earliest possible date, to a Bill designed to ensure more effective and economical operation of Canadian railways upon the basis of fair competition, secured in such manner as will avoid extravagant and harmful duplication of services.

Since the last session of Parliament, my Ministers have entered into a treaty with the Government of the United States of America for the completion of the St. Lawrence Waterway. Upon its ratification by the duly constituted authority of the United States, this treaty will be submitted to you for approval.

A committee has been appointed by Order in Council to inquire into the operation of the Pensions Act so that my Ministers may have before them all information necessary to determine whether further action may be required to discharge the country's obligation to those who served in the Great War.

The problem of unemployment continues to receive the anxious attention of my Ministers. Under the powers granted them at the last session of Parliament, they have been able to develop further, in co-operation with the provinces and municipalities, a scheme of direct relief to be put into operation during the autumn and winter months to the extent required by prevailing conditions. Plans for the re-establishment of the unemployed in various parts of the country are in preparation and will become operative as soon as, in the opinion of my Ministers, the public expenditure incident thereto will be productive of commensurate benefits.

It is a matter of gratification to us all that in those large areas of the West where, during recent successive years, crop failure was followed by widespread distress, this season's bountiful harvest forecasts greatly improved conditions and makes possible a corresponding reduction of relief measures.

In accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act, you will be invited to consider a Bill for the redistribution of representation of the provinces in the House of Commons.

There will also be brought before you for consideration other measures which my Ministers deem to be in the public interest.

You will be invited to extend Canadian bank charters for one year in order that Parliament may be informed of the results of the proposed World Economic and Financial Conference, to be called to consider financial, economic and monetary problems, before undertaking the decennial revision of the Bank Act.

When you have considered the matters requiring your immediate attention, it is proposed that Parliament shall adjourn until early in the new year, then to proceed with the ordinary business of the session.