

Governor Generals' Speech

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In opening the third session of the sixteenth parliament of Canada I desire to join with you in profound thankfulness for the recovery of our beloved sovereign King George the Fifth. I share your fervent hope that His Majesty may be completely restored in health, and that he may be spared to continue that devoted service to the empire which has won for him an abiding place in the hearts of the people.

The unprecedented prosperity which is apparent throughout the Dominion affords cause for the deepest satisfaction. Never in the history of Canada has there been such industrial and commercial expansion as that which has taken place during the past twelve months. The industry and enterprise of our people have been rewarded under Providence with an abundant harvest. In the production of agricultural and other basic industries all previous records have been surpassed. New records have also been established in the volume of construction and in the volume of foreign trade. Employment has been maintained at a high level and all indications point to a continuance throughout the country of the present favourable conditions.

A notable feature of industrial development has been the continued advance and prosperity of the mining industry in almost every part of the Dominion.

The production of the fishing industry during the past year has shown a substantial increase over that of 1927. In accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Fisheries, the Fisheries branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries has been separated from the Marine branch, and a Deputy Minister of Fisheries has been appointed. A reorganization of the fisheries service along lines recommended by the commission is being effected. Certain other matters covered in the report will, during the present session, be dealt with by legislation.

Plans are in progress of completion for the construction of the National Research Laboratories to provide scientific and technical knowledge for the various branches of production.

The past year witnessed the inauguration of the Canadian National Steamships service between Canada and Bermuda and the West

[Mr. Speaker.]

Indies. The many advantages of this service are already apparent. In view of the importance of our ever increasing export trade it is intended to augment and extend the existing facilities for furnishing Canadian exporters with commercial information in respect to foreign markets. It is also proposed to establish additional trade commissioner offices at strategic points in different parts of the world.

Communication within the Dominion has been facilitated and improved by an extensive development of air mail services, and communication to all parts of the British Empire by the restoration of penny postage.

The expansion in trade and commerce which the country has experienced has been strikingly reflected in our transportation returns. The net earnings of the railways have exceeded those of any previous year.

Satisfactory progress continues to be made in the construction of the Hudson Bay railway. The laying of steel is now within thirty-seven miles of the terminus of the line at Churchill, where a substantial commencement has been made in the provision of port facilities. The rapid development of western and northern Canada imposes on the railways the necessity of providing increased transportation facilities in the immediate future. A further branch line program by the Canadian National management will be submitted for your consideration. You will also be asked to authorize the acquisition of certain railways in both eastern and western Canada, which will constitute potentially important feeders of the Canadian National system.

Amendment of the Railway Act will be sought, granting to the Board of Railway Commissioners wider powers of investigation of affairs in relation to subsidiary concerns, and with respect to the issue of capital stock.

Legislation will be introduced to give effect to a general pension scheme for the benefit of the employees of the Canadian National Railways.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the select standing committee on agriculture and colonization, agreements have been consummated with several of the provinces for the promotion of juvenile settlement from the United Kingdom. Negotiations have also been concluded for the application of a £10 ocean rate to all British immigrants ordinarily resident in Great Britain or Northern Ireland, except agricultural families, house workers, and juvenile immigrants who receive a more favourable rate under the Empire settlement passage agreement. A flow of immigrants commensurate with Canadian requirements and selected strictly for their ability to promote the general prosperity of the country is being satisfactorily maintained.

A royal commission has been appointed to inquire and report as to what financial readjustments are necessary in order that the province of Manitoba may be placed in a position of equality with the other provinces of confederation with respect to the administration and control of its natural resources, as from its entrance into confederation in 1870.

Negotiations have also been resumed with the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan with a view to the transfer to these provinces of their natural resources, and with the province of British Columbia with respect to the restoration to that province of the lands of the railway belt and the Peace River block.