

My advisers are convinced that it is the duty of Canada at this juncture to afford reasonable and necessary aid for that purpose. A Bill will be introduced accordingly.

A contract for the construction of the Hudson Bay railway from LePas to Port Nelson has been awarded and the work is being pushed forward with all possible speed.

It is abundantly evident that the highways of Canada constitute an important part of an efficient scheme of transportation. The necessity for improving our existing facilities in this regard is manifest and a Bill will be introduced for the purpose of enabling the Dominion to co-operate with the provinces in the accomplishment of this most desirable purpose.

It is satisfactory to know that the proposal of my government to co-operate with the governments of the various provinces in promoting the agricultural industry has met with hearty approval. The appropriations which were made last session in connection therewith have proved to be of marked benefit to the country. After a careful study of the whole question my advisers are convinced that co-operation with the provinces on well defined terms and conditions will achieve the best results along the lines of agricultural instruction. Any such policy to be effective must be continuous. Accordingly, a Bill will be introduced by which a substantial amount of money will be set apart from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purpose of assisting the provinces for a term of years in this highly important national work.

My Government has succeeded in securing certain reductions in cable rates and will continue its efforts to obtain further reductions.

Under existing legislation the charters of the banks will expire on the 1st day of July next. A Bill revising and extending these charters will be submitted for your consideration and approval.

Several other Bills will be submitted, including measures providing for increased representation of the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in the Senate.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you. It will be satisfactory to you to learn that the revenue has been ample to cover both ordinary and capital expenditure.

The estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted at an early date. They have been prepared with due regard on the one hand for economy, and on the other hand for the necessary development of the resources of the Dominion.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I invite your earnest consideration of the subjects to which I have alluded and I invoke the blessings of Divine Providence upon your deliberations.

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

After some time the Senate resumed.

Prayers.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill () An Act relating to Railways.

—Hon. Mr. Lougheed.

Bill (A) An Act respecting the Pollution of Navigable Waters.—Hon. Mr. Belcourt.

REPORTED FOR NON-ATTENDANCE.

The Speaker presented to the Senate the following report from the Clerk of the Senate:

Clerk's Office, Ottawa,
21st November, 1912.

The Honourable Philip Landry,
Speaker of the Senate.

Sir,—In compliance with rule 104, I have the honour to report for the information of the Senate, that on examination of the Journals of the House they fail to show that the Honourable Michael Sullivan, a member of the Senate, and a senator for the province of Ontario, has given his attendance in the Senate during any part of the last two consecutive sessions of Parliament, to wit: the last session of the Eleventh Parliament and the first session of the present Parliament.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
SAMUEL E. ST. O. CHAPLEAU,
Clerk of the Senate.

THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.
MOTION.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED moved:

That pursuant to rule 77, the following senators: the Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, K.C.M.G., the Honourable Messieurs Gibson, Béique, Power, Watson, Casgrain, Ross (Moosejaw), Daniel, and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I would like to ask the hon. leader of the Government a question in regard to the motion he has just made. On whose authority and by whose direction was this committee formed? Were any of the members of the Opposition consulted in regard to its formation? For the past ten years I, as well as many others, have been in the dark in regard to the naming and appointing of members to this committee which, after all, is the most important that the Senate has to deal with in as much as this committee has it in its power to create all other working committees, a power that in the past has not always been wisely used. Senators have been appointed to these working committees who were of little or no use to their