

## CANADA

# The Debates of the Senate

### OFFICIAL REPORT

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 31, 1923.

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 and routine proceedings.

### 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 formally the Session of the Dominion Parliament this day at 3 o'clock.

### NEW SENATOR INTRODUCED

Hon. Onesiphore Turgeon, of Bathurst, New Brunswick, introduced by Hon. Raoul Dandurand and Hon. Pascal Poirier.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the sitting was resumed.

### 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 Second Session of the Fourteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following Speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I am glad to welcome you to a return to your parliamentary duties. In the interval which has elapsed since the last session, I have had the pleasure of extending my travels throughout Western Canada and as far as the Territory of the Yukon. The cordial hospitality everywhere enjoyed by Her Excellency and myself will be long remembered.

It is gratifying to note that in a period of world-wide trade depression following the Great War, Canada has made substantial progress towards recovery.

The increase in the volume of trade, the diminution of unemployment as compared with last winter, and the restoration of our currency to a position of equality with that of the neighbouring Republic, are indications of the improved situation. The economic condition in European countries makes for embarrassment the world over. A much better situation in Europe will be necessary before we can expect a complete restoration of confidence in business affairs here. In the meantime, the Dominion has much reason for satisfaction with the improvement that has taken place, and with the many evidences of a returning prosperity.

The desirability of obtaining the best available terms for the admission of our products in foreign markets has engaged the attention of the Ministry. Conventions have been made to govern trade relations between France and Canada and between Italy and Canada. These Conventions will be submitted for your approval.

Since last session, acting under a Statute of 1919, with amendments thereto, an Order in Council has been passed appointing a Board of Directors to be known as The Board of Directors of the Canadian National Railway Company, having under its control and operation the various lines which go to make up the system, and also the Canadian Government Merchant Marine. The various units of the system are being consolidated as rapidly as possible. This, it is expected, will increase the efficiency and decrease the cost of operation.

It having been represented that an amalgamation of interests of shipping companies and vessel owners upon the Great Lakes has operated to control freight rates and insurance upon grain shipments in a manner which has deprived agriculturists of much of the benefit to which they were entitled, as well as led to discrimination against Canadian ports and harbours, a Royal Commission has been appointed to investigate and report upon this alleged combine.

A bill will be submitted to you to safeguard the interests of consumers and producers from undue enhancement of prices or unfair restriction of trade by combines, monopolies, trusts, or mergers.

As a consequence of an agreement entered into between the Government of Great Britain and members of the Canadian Government, the law with respect to the landing of imported animals in Great Britain has been amended by the British Parliament. The removal thereby effected of the embargo on Canadian cattle entering the United Kingdom is a source of general satisfaction. It has materially improved the outlook as regards live stock, and should lead to the re-establishment of a profitable trade with Great Britain.

The adverse conditions with which agriculture generally is confronted in many parts of Canada, despite the abundant crops of the past year, render it desirable that a special committee, with powers to make recommendations, be appointed to look into various agricultural matters such as the mixing of grain in private terminal elevators, the marketing of farm products, the development of the live stock industry, and the possibilities of further diversification in our Canadian agriculture.

The matter of securing an increasing flow of desirable settlers to develop the large areas still available