

ever closer supervision of the immigration branch of the public service, the character of these new inhabitants of Canada seems to be of the highest, and promises no small addition to the wealth of the country.

The government of the United Kingdom having expressed its willingness to include a representative of Canada among its delegates to the conference, held at Shanghai, to investigate the opium trade, my government has been pleased to welcome an offer so significant of Canada's growing importance, and on its recommendation the government of the United Kingdom has accordingly appointed a member of the Dominion Parliament to be a member of the commission.

Representatives of Canada participated lately in the permanent establishment and organization of the International Institute of agriculture, with its headquarters at Rome, an event of interest to our country in whose economic system agriculture plays so great a part. It is gratifying to note that among the forty-eight States adhering to the Institute, recognition of Canada's agricultural importance was shown by election of our representatives to some of the highest offices of the Institute.

The appalling calamity which has befallen Sicily and Southern Italy and caused a total destruction of life and property absolutely unprecedented and unequalled in the long series of historic disasters, has induced my government to offer assistance for the immediate relief of the hundreds of thousands of sufferers who were helpless against famine and all its consequent horrors. I confidently hope that you will approve its action.

In pursuance of an announcement made during the concluding session of last parliament, a commission was appointed to examine the various lines of railway connected with the Intercolonial Railway and which might become valuable feeders thereto. The report of this commission has been received and will be placed before you.

The commissioner appointed for investigating the conduct of officers in the Department of Marine and Fisheries has concluded his labour, but has not yet reported. His report, however, is expected at an early date and a measure will be submitted to you, based upon similar legislation enacted in 1906 by the parliament of the United Kingdom, aiming at the repression of the payment of secret commissions and gratuities both in public and private business.

You will be asked to consider measures relative to insurance, the civil service, immigration, naturalization and other subjects.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The accounts of the last year will be laid before you.

The estimates for the coming year will be submitted at an early date; they have been prepared with a due regard for economy consistent with the requirement of the public service.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I pray Divine Providence that it may guide your deliberations, and that they may tend to a further increase in the prosperity of our country and the well-being of our people.

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

The Senate was resumed.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill () An Act respecting Railways.—
(Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright).

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

MOTION.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT moved that the speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration by the Senate on Tuesday next.

The motion was agreed to.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

MOTION.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT moved:

That pursuant to Rule 77, the following Senators: the Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the Honourable Messieurs Gibson, Loughheed, Béique, Miller, Power, Watson, Casgrain and Ferguson, 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, and
That Rule 24a be suspended in so far as it relates to the said motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday next at three p.m.