

## CANADA

# The Debates of the Senate

### OFFICIAL REPORT

#### THE SENATE.

Thursday, February 26, 1920.

The Senate met this day at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber of the House of Commons in the new Parliament Building; the Speaker in the Chair.

#### NEW SENATORS INTRODUCED.

The following newly-appointed Senators were severally introduced and took their seats:

Hon. Thomas Chapais, LL.D., of the city of Quebec, introduced by Hon. Sir James Loughheed and Hon. Mr. Blondin.

Hon. Lorne Campbell Webster, of the city of Quebec, introduced by Hon. Sir James Loughheed and Hon. Mr. Blondin.

#### OPENING OF THE SESSION.

The Hon. the SPEAKER announced 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 on Thursday, the 26th February, at 3 o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

#### THE 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 Thirteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following Speech:

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I congratulate you that after an enforced absence of four years, it is possible for you to assemble in your new legislative home, resting in trustful security upon the old foundations and surrounded by the picturesque and historic setting of Parliament Hill. Though not entirely completed, its noble proportions, its wide and convenient spaces, its beauty of design

and chasteness of finish and its unique local situation mark it as a most striking and dignified structure, worthy of the people whose national life it will henceforth serve.

Since the last Session of Parliament events of importance have taken place which have brought appreciably nearer the much desired settlements of peace. Following the exchange of the final ratifications, the Treaty of Peace between the Allied Powers and Germany has been brought into full force and effect and has rendered possible the constitution of the League of Nations and the establishment by it of the various Commissions and mandatories authorized by the Treaty to be carried out under its direction. It is satisfactory to note that the status of Canada as a member of the League has thus been definitely fixed.

The Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria has been concluded and will be submitted for your approval. Negotiations for the conclusion of Treaties of Peace with Hungary and Turkey are now well advanced and, if concluded in time, will be laid before you during the present Session of Parliament.

The first meeting of the International Labour Conference, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Peace, was held at Washington in October and November of last year and was attended by representatives of my Government and of the Canadian employers' and employees' organizations. It will be gratifying to learn that Canada was selected as one of the twelve Governments whose countries are entitled to representation on the governing body of the International Labour Office.

When the remaining Treaties shall have been concluded and the functions of the League of Nations and the various tribunals authorized thereby become fully operative, it is confidently hoped that the end will have been reached of the confusion and uncertainty consequent upon the long and regrettable delay in bringing into operation the provisions of the Treaty and an effective beginning made in the improvement of national conditions and the adjustment of international relations which will ensure the continued blessings of peace.

The forces which Canada contributed to the war have now nearly all been returned and mostly demobilized and the great majority have resumed their avocations and again become active and important factors in civil life.

The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board continue to provide vocational training and opportunities for permanent occupation which greatly aid in the solution of the problem of readjustment, whilst the work of the Labour Employment Bureaus and the helpful service of the Canadian Patriotic Association in administering the emergency fund provided by Parliament, have materially assisted in solving the problem of temporary non-employment.