

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 First Session of the Sixteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following Speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I desire on this occasion to assure you of the great satisfaction it affords me to be associated with you in the important tasks upon which you are about to enter at this, the first session of the Sixteenth Parliament of Canada, and to avail myself of your assistance and advice in discharging the duties which His Majesty the King has entrusted to me as his representative.

Once again we have cause to be thankful for a bountiful harvest and other assurances of continued prosperity. It is gratifying to note that during the year the foreign trade of Canada has shown further marked improvement and that immigration has substantially increased.

The necessity of making adequate provision for the public services has compelled me to summon you at an earlier date than would otherwise have been necessary. In order to provide for present and immediate future needs, and to regularize expenditures already made, you will be asked forthwith to vote the necessary supply for the current financial year. It is not proposed to proceed with the ordinary business of the session until the reassembling of Parliament in the New Year.

Those government measures which passed the House of Commons at the last session of Parliament, but which failed to become law, will be reintroduced. Amendments to the Canada Grain Act will also be submitted for your consideration.

With a view to expediting public business generally, it is proposed to afford opportunity for an early consideration of Amendments to the Rules of the House of Commons.

My Government has continued to give special attention to the fuel problem and measures providing for assistance to works constructed for the production of domestic coke from Canadian coal will be submitted.

The Report of the Commission appointed under the Inquiries Act to examine and report upon conditions in the Maritime Provinces will be presented immediately and your attention will be invited to its recommendations. Measures dealing with the matters referred to in the report of the Commission are now under consideration by my Government, and certain legislation in respect thereto will be introduced.

Good progress has been made with work on the Hudson Bay Railway and it is planned to continue construction at as early a date as possible next year. It has been decided to submit the study of conditions at the Port to the careful examination of an outstanding British authority on tidal and estuarial conditions affecting harbours.

Canadian National branch line construction on the basis of a definite three-year programme having proved entirely successful, that method of dealing with necessary railway expansion will be continued, and another three-year programme will be submitted for your consideration.

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You will also be asked to approve an agreement with the holders of Grand Trunk Pacific perpetual debentures.

Members of my Government have just returned to Canada from attending the meetings of the Imperial Conference. The Report of the proceedings of the Conference, together with its recommendations, will be placed before you for consideration. It will, I believe, be recognized that the joint labours of the Governments represented at the Conference have gone far to set forth the relations of the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations to one another and to foreign countries and to ensure a ready appreciation of the full measure of self-government now attained in all that relates to their domestic and external affairs. In the prolonged consideration given to specific matters of joint concern, the Conference has done much to ensure the free and effective co-operation in common ends of the Governments and peoples of the British Empire.

The recent appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary accredited by His Majesty to represent the interests of Canada in the United States marks an important stage in the development of the international relations of the Dominion.

The Diamond Jubilee of Confederation will be appropriately celebrated during the coming year. I am pleased to inform you that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has graciously accepted the invitation of my Government to visit Canada, circumstances permitting, in connection with the celebration. My government has also extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of Great Britain; the Prime Minister has accepted the invitation and has expressed the hope that when the time arrives he may find it possible to be present.

Members of the House of Commons:

The estimates for the current fiscal year which have not hitherto been voted by Parliament will, as already mentioned, be submitted for your approval forthwith. Estimates for the financial year 1927-28 will be submitted for your consideration when Parliament reassembles.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In inviting your careful consideration of the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

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

The sitting was resumed.

Prayers.

CONSIDERATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, it was ordered, that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Tuesday, December 14.

RAILWAY BILL FIRST READING

Bill—, an Act respecting Railways.—Hon. Mr. Dandurand.