

agement should be given to those who are engaged in the cultivation of the land. To this end, a measure will be introduced under which it is hoped that there may be co-operation between the Dominion and the various provinces, for the purpose of assisting and encouraging our farmers to secure the best results in production, and at the same time preserve the fertility of the soil.

A measure will be introduced revising and consolidating the Acts relating to the inspection of grain and providing the means by which the government can secure, through a commission, the control and operation of the terminal elevators upon the Great Lakes.

A Bill will be introduced to establish a permanent tariff commission, whose duty it shall be to ascertain, by investigation and inquiry, such information as will furnish a more stable and satisfactory basis for tariff legislation than has heretofore been available.

Bills will also be laid before you with respect to the Department of External Affairs, the Archives and other subjects.

The selection of the best route for the Hudson Bay railway is engaging the attention of my advisers, and an announcement will be made to you of the result of their inquiry.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

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

The balance of the estimates for the current fiscal year, as well as the estimates for the coming year, will be submitted for your approval at an early date.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I commend the subjects, which I have mentioned, to your best consideration, and I trust that your deliberations, under the blessing of Divine Providence, may tend to the welfare and good government of this Dominion.

MEMBER INTRODUCED.

Duncan Orestes Alguire, Esquire, for the electoral division of Stormont, introduced by Hon. Mr. Foster and Hon. Mr. Reid.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the administration of Oaths of Office.—Hon. R. L. Borden (Prime Minister).

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. BORDEN moved:

That the speech of His Royal Highness the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

He said: It was our intention to have proceeded to-morrow, but I understand from hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House that it would be regarded as somewhat more convenient if the debate were proceeded with on Monday.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BORDEN moved:

That the order for the consideration of the motion for an address to His Royal Highness

the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session have precedence over all other business except the introduction of Bills until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. BORDEN moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed lists of members to compose the select standing committees of this House under Rule 10, such select committee to be composed of the following members: Hon. Mr. Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Messrs. Reid (Grenville), Monk, Pugsley, Stanfield and Pardee, and that the portion of Rule 10 limiting the number of members of said committee be suspended in relation thereto.

He said: I would like to say in connection with this motion that I think hon. members on both sides of the House have realized in the past that several committees as constituted hitherto have been too large. The Railway Committee, for example, in the last parliament, consisted, if I remember the figures accurately, of 205 members out of a total membership in this House of 221. So, it was much easier to name a committee by saying that it should consist of all the members of the House except the sixteen gentlemen who happened not to be appointed as members of it. I would like to have the views of hon. gentlemen on both sides as to whether or not this can be corrected. It would seem to me that if we name about fifty or sixty members on the Railway Committee the other standing committees such as Privileges and Elections, and Banking, and Commerce could be restricted to from twenty-five to forty members, with the result that probably more responsibility would be felt by the members of the committees, the relative attendance would be larger, and on the whole better work would be accomplished. I take the opportunity of mentioning this now so that my right hon. friend may consider it, and if he wishes give us his views upon it. We can also have the ideas of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House as to whether this reform, as I think it is, cannot best be accomplished at the present time. Under the arrangement which I would feel inclined to propose, every member of the House would be on two committees and on no more, whereas hitherto it has been the practice to appoint certain members of the House upon three or four, or even five committees. I make the suggestion now in order that we may elicit the opinion of hon. members generally with regard to it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The remarks of my hon. friend in presenting the motion are quite apposite under existing cir-