

THE SENATE DEBATES

SECOND SESSION—TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

THE SENATE.

THURSDAY, November 21, 1912.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m.

NEW SENATORS.

Hon. HENRY CORBY, of the province of Ontario.

Hon. GEORGE GORDON, of the province of Ontario.

Hon. NATHANIEL CURRY, of the province of Nova Scotia.

Hon. WILLIAM DENNIS, of the province of Nova Scotia.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Royal Highness being seated on the Throne.

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that:

‘It is His Royal Highness’s pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.’

Who being come, with their Speaker.

His Excellency, the Governor General was then pleased to open the session with the following gracious Speech to both Houses:

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I have during the past summer spent several months in visiting the principal cities

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and towns of Canada from coast to coast, and have endeavoured to make myself as far as possible acquainted with the conditions prevailing.

It has been a source of the deepest satisfaction to me to see the almost universal prosperity which reigns throughout the Dominion, and to witness the energy and enterprise which are shown in developing the rich resources of the land.

It is most gratifying to observe that the trade of the Dominion is increasing rapidly and steadily, the aggregate trade for the last fiscal year being the largest on record. During the present year the same steady increase has been noted, and it is anticipated that the total volume of our trade for the present fiscal year will greatly surpass that of any previous year in our history.

The revenues of the Dominion continue to expand, and in every branch of business and industry there is a remarkable activity which gives assurance of continued progress and prosperity.

A copious and welcome stream of immigration has poured into our country during the past summer. The volume of immigration during the present year is greater than during any corresponding period of our history, and in larger measure than usual it has been drawn from the British Islands.

The labours of the husbandman have been blessed with an ample return; and, although in some districts the weather has been unpropitious for the harvest, it is expected that the total value of our field crops will be greater than in any previous year.

Papers will be laid before you which embody trade arrangements that have been consummated between the Dominion and certain of His Majesty’s possessions in the West Indies. It is hoped that these arrangements will prove of great advantage not only to those possessions, but to Canada as well. A Bill will be introduced for the purpose of carrying this agreement into effect.

During the past summer four members of my government conferred in London with His Majesty’s government on the question of Naval Defence. Important discussions took place and conditions have been disclosed which in the opinion of my advisers render it imperative that the effective naval forces of the Empire should be strengthened without delay.