

Paris press was unanimous in congratulating our Government upon this judicious appointment.

France has sent us, in the person of M. Jean Knight, a diplomat of the highest distinction. I have not the least doubt that, with such able men acting as intermediaries, the relations existing between the two countries will always be most satisfactory.

The Speech from the Throne informs us that the treaty to renounce war, signed on behalf of Canada on August 27, will be submitted for our examination. I may state in advance that the pact will be approved as heartily as we shall give approval to any other movement aiming to secure universal peace, so essential to the welfare and happiness of mankind.

In conclusion, may I be allowed to express my sincere wishes for the complete recovery of His Majesty the King, and the hope that he may long be spared to continue his reign, which has been marked by so much wisdom and devotion.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Willoughby, the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 13, 1929.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

COMPANIES BILL

FIRST READING

Bill C, an Act to amend the Companies Act.—Hon. Mr. Dandurand.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the Session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Logan for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. W. B. WILLOUGHBY: Honourable gentlemen, in resuming the debate I promise you that I shall not be very long. It has been my humble opinion, for a considerable time, in any event, that any measure to be submitted to the House can be more adequately and properly discussed when it is

Hon. Mr. TESSIER.

actually laid before us. I have no desire to attempt to shine as an orator in making a general statement as to any of these matters, but I will deal with a few of them now, and as particular measures are brought before us for actual legislation, or the reverse, I shall crave the indulgence of the House while I discuss them, if not adequately, at least at some length.

However, it is a courtesy perhaps due to the House to refer to some of the questions mentioned in the Speech from the Throne and in the speech of the mover of the Address in reply; and I hope that some of the honourable gentlemen who sit behind me will, if they see fit, deal with matters on which I shall not touch.

The first question mentioned in the Speech from the Throne to which I shall make reference is the construction of the National Research Laboratories. I am now, and I was when the matter came before us some years ago, in favour of a generous expenditure of money for the development and encouragement of scientific research. We in Canada are becoming more and more industrialized, and the indications are that in the proximate future that development will be accentuated from year to year. When we were not so much engaged in manufacturing, the need for scientific research on the part of the Government was not so pressing. In the meantime many of the large institutions have provided facilities for scientific research in their own laboratories. The Department of Agriculture has already done much in the matter of purely scientific research. Perhaps it has gone as far as any institution in this respect.

I think that this Government, and in fact all Governments in Canada, should recognize agriculture as the most important industry in the whole country. It is a basic industry. The necessity of scientific research in connection with agriculture has been growing stronger every year. In two or three fields at the present time the Governments of the Provinces, or the Government of the Dominion, are rendering valuable assistance. The Government at Ottawa has done splendid work, from a scientific point of view. It is now a commonplace to say that Western Canada and the whole country were enriched by the magnificent discovery of Marquis wheat by Dr. Saunders. In the universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, by a co-ordination of effort, an attempt is now being made to solve some very grave difficulties met with in the growing of grain in the West. One of the outstanding problems is that of rust; and another is the developing of earlier