

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH
FROM THE THRONE—*Con.*

Bennett, W. H. (Simcoe East)—229.

Depression in Canada alluded to and some of the reasons for it. Opposition blamed for endeavouring to black-eye Canada in every part of the world, the leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the greatest sinner of them all, 229. The iron industry the greatest industry in any country because it enters into so many manufactured goods. What is the condition of the iron industry in Canada, 230. Here in Canada we have conditions which make it more difficult for us to cope with the people of the United States in the production of iron, 231. Canada stands at a disadvantage with respect to scrap iron which is used in conjunction with the ore in all the smelters. It is high time the government should awaken to the emergency and that all the advantages may be gained that follow in the wake of this great industry, 232. Transportation by water exhaustively referred to, 233-5. Iron industry again referred to, 236.

Borden, Rt. Hon. R. L. (Prime Minister)—22.

Congratulates mover and seconder of address. Desires to associate himself in expressing satisfaction of the Canadian people in recovery of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught. The leader of opposition spoke of delay in summoning parliament. Suggestion that parliament meet in January instead of November thoroughly welcomed. Hopes that members may be inspired with a desire to expedite business and will welcome the innovation and justify the government in postponing the meeting of parliament until January. Pleased to know that the choice of Solicitor General is an excellent one. Conservative party is not afflicted by poverty of talent. Explains the reason why the Minister of Trade and Commerce is absent. The absence of reference to the Highways Bill in the Speech from the Throne explained, 23. Not until the majority of the Senate comes in accord with the voice and will of the people will the Highways Bill be again introduced. Four important measures which the Government has proposed to parliament have been rejected by the Liberal majority in the Senate. Canada has less control over the majority in the Senate which puts itself in opposition to the popular will than any other dominion of the empire. If the Senate is disposed to force upon us the question of its constitution and appointments thereto, we are ready to accept that issue. Branch Lines Bill of last year a notable illustration of what has just been alluded to, 24. The resolution as introduced by the Minister of Railways and Canals was very broad in its terms. Modified form of resolution introduced and submitted to leaders of opposition and accepted by them. Bill founded upon it went through without one dissenting voice. Bill so mangled by Senate that it became useless for purpose for which it was intended.

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So it was with Tariff Commission Bill. Action of government in regard to Naval Aid Bill explained. Convinced that conditions disclosed in Admiralty memorandum demanded aid from Canada the government introduced in parliament, 5th Dec., 1912, the Naval Aid Bill by resolution. Construction of the three battleships provided for to be placed at disposal of His Majesty for common defence of the empire. Measure debated at great length in the House and persistently obstructed. Passed only after amendment of rules. Rejected by the Upper Chamber by senators appointed by the late government previous to its defeat in 1911. Measure created a profound impression within the empire and throughout the world. If Bill had passed it would have constituted an important influence in bringing about a cessation of armaments. Senate's action not understood in empire or world, and that this Dominion must be regarded not as a strength but as a weakness to the empire in time of peril. Quotation from *Hamburger Nachrichten* cited, 25. Not desirable that the opposition in the Senate should be given another opportunity of rejecting the Bill, nevertheless government firm in its determination that these ships shall be provided and repeats declaration in this regard of last session. Quotations from Mr. Churchill's utterances in House of Commons, March 18 and 26, 1912, 26. From speech at Liberal meeting. Manchester, Oct. 18, and at Guildhall banquet, Nov. 12, 1913. Resolution of United States House of Representatives of 8th Dec., 1913, with regard to suspension of naval construction quoted. The incessant tendency of the nations to arm themselves depressing and humiliating, 27. Trusts that day is drawing near when differences between nations may be settled by some great tribunal established under international authority, and so constituted that its decisions will command respect and obedience. Government desirous that aid to be preferred should not prejudice or retard any international agreement, for the cessation of battleships construction. Will consult with imperial authorities when in position to press Naval Aid Bill to a final conclusion in the Senate. Opponents take the ground that our proposals of last year ought not to be undertaken without an appeal to the people. Government dissents from that view. Pledge given to people that permanent policy of naval defence would be submitted at general election. Pledge holds good. Faith will be kept with the people. Leader of opposition deplors the establishment of any armament trust in Canada. Who advocated this last year in Parliament? The leader of the opposition and his friends which would cost in the next 10 or 12 years, 28, this country \$150,000,000 and that this should be done without consulting the people. Remarks of leader of opposition in regard to terminals of Quebec and G.T.P. Ry Co. are