

accordance with the recommendation of the standing committee of the House of Commons on agriculture at the last session.

At the September meeting of the assembly of the League of Nations, the optional clause of the statute of the permanent court, providing for the submission of justiciable disputes to arbitration, was signed on behalf of Canada and all the other nations of the British commonwealth. It will be submitted for your approval.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Imperial Conference of 1926, a conference was held in London during the past autumn to consider and report on certain phases of the operation of Dominion legislation and merchant shipping. The report of this conference will be submitted.

In the summer of last year, an invitation was extended by His Majesty's government in Canada to all His Majesty's other governments to participate in an imperial economic conference in Canada at the earliest possible date. It was found that the convenience of the majority of the governments could best be met by an arrangement to hold the Imperial Economic Conference along with the Imperial Conference in London in the early autumn of the present year. This has accordingly been arranged.

Canada, in common with the other members of the British commonwealth of nations, is participating in the conference on the limitation of naval armament, which was opened in London by His Majesty on January 21st. It is confidently hoped that the discussions so auspiciously begun will result in a marked lessening of international rivalries and the growth of security and good-will.

The eligibility of women for appointment to the Senate of Canada has been declared by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and I have been pleased, on the advice of my ministers, to avail myself of the earliest opportunity to summon a woman to the Senate. For the first time in Canadian history, women have been accorded an equal right with men to representation in both houses of parliament.

Among other measures to which your attention will be invited are amendments to the Elections Act, the Bankruptcy Act, the Companies Act, and the Criminal Code.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts of the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

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

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Monday next, and that this order have precedence over all other business, except the introduction of bills, until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

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SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) 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 standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. King (Kootenay), Stewart (Edmonton), Casgrain, Hanson and Stewart (Leeds).

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable J. H. King, Minister of Pensions and National Health, the Honourable J. C. Elliott, Minister of Public Works, and the Honourable Fernand Rinfret, Secretary of State, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled An Act respecting the House of Commons.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

THE LATE HON. JAMES A. ROBB—THE LATE
GEORGES DORÈZE MORIN

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the happiness which we experience at the commencement of a session in renewing acquaintances, greeting old friends, and welcoming, as we have to-day, new members to the House of Commons, is all too frequently clouded by the thought that some there are whom we shall never see again, whose kindly presence in our midst will be felt no more, and whose voices will be heard only in memory.

You, Mr. Speaker, have just drawn the attention of hon. members of this house to the vacancies which have arisen in its membership since we went our several ways at the close of the last session of parliament. Of the number of these vacancies, two have been occasioned by death. Before we enter actively upon the work of the session, may I be permitted to speak of the loss which our country, as well as parliament, has sustained in the death of the two members of this house to whom you have referred.

THE LATE HONOURABLE JAMES A. ROBB

In previous sessions of this parliament, there was, I believe, no personality more generally beloved than the Hon. James Alexander Robb,