

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Thursday, January 26, 1928.

The Parliament of Canada having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the despatch of business:

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament this day at 3 o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Second Session of the Sixteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following Speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

It affords me much pleasure to meet you at the commencement of another session of Parliament and to be able to congratulate you upon the marked prosperity of the country. The volume of trade and of building construction, the growth in employment, the increased railway receipts, the expanding revenues, and business conditions generally, all bear testimony to a sound economic development which promises much in the way of substantial progress.

The celebrations of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Confederation, held during the past summer, were of a memorable character. They evoked in all parts of the Dominion a spirit of national pride and patriotism. Related to the commemoration, and outstanding among the events of the year, was the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Prince

George, and the Prime Minister of Great Britain. The welcome everywhere accorded the representatives of the Royal Family and the representative of the British Parliament evidenced the strength of the ties which unite in a common allegiance the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Striking recognition has been accorded Canada's position in the League of Nations through the selection of Canada by the Assembly to a non-permanent seat on the Council of the League.

As contemplated by the conclusions of the Imperial Conference of 1926, provision was made on July 1 for direct communication between His Majesty's Government in Canada and His Majesty's other Governments of the British Empire. The further implementing of these conclusions which aim at more effective consultation through personal contact by the appointment to Canada of a representative of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain is being discussed between the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in Great Britain, who is at present in Canada, and members of my Government. By agreement between the Governments of France and Canada and the Governments of Japan and Canada it is proposed that each of these countries shall be represented in the other by a Minister Plenipotentiary.

Following the announcement made during the last Session of Parliament, a Conference was convened at Ottawa in November between the Dominion Government and the Governments of the Provinces of Canada. It is the opinion of my advisers that this Conference proved of the utmost value in facilitating a full and free exchange of views between the participating Governments on problems of mutual interest and concern. Your attention will be invited during the present Session to some of the more important matters discussed at the Conference.

As a result of the Dominion-Provincial Conference, my advisers have decided, pending a complete revision of the financial arrangements as contemplated by the Duncan Report, to recommend the continuance to the Maritime Provinces of the money grants made at the last session. In the light of the discussions at the Conference, my Ministers are continuing negotiations with the Prairie Provinces for the return of their natural resources and are giving consideration to the restoration to the Province of British Columbia of the lands of the railway belt and the Peace River block. Consideration is also being given to the railway problems of the several provinces, as outlined at the Conference.

The work of reconditioning that portion of the Hudson Bay railway previously constructed has been finished. After most careful examination and consideration, and upon the best advice obtainable, Churchill has been selected