

sidering them and of satisfying themselves that these proposed changes do not in any way restrict their constitutional rights. Unanimous concurrence in this view having been given by the representatives of Great Britain, the Irish Free State and the other Dominions, my Ministers have called a Provincial Conference to be held at Ottawa in the month of April for the consideration of the proposed changes. Following the conference you will be asked to take appropriate action.

Exhaustive consideration of the means most likely to ensure a lasting and mutually advantageous scheme of Empire economic co-operation was also commenced at the Imperial Conference, and many matters preliminary to a final conclusion were then disposed of. Searching investigation into the merits of alternative schemes by the governments concerned is continuing, and it is confidently hoped that, at the adjourned Conference to meet at Ottawa during the ensuing summer, agreements will be concluded for closer Empire trade, which will strengthen still more the bonds of Empire and bring to every part of it great and enduring prosperity.

Pursuant to the fixed policy of my Government to combat all influences which are inimical to the social and economic welfare of this Dominion, an Order in Council has been passed prohibiting the importation of certain commodities into Canada from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

My Ministers have completed the organization approved by legislation at the last session of the Sixteenth Parliament for administering the Pension Act as amended, and have taken steps to ensure that every care shall be exercised to obtain the just and equitable satisfaction of all legitimate claims.

My Ministers have had under anxious consideration the means by which an orderly marketing of the wheat crop of Western Canada may be assured, and have already taken such effective action towards that end as the circumstances appear to justify. My Ministers are aware that changing conditions in the world's markets may necessitate further intervention by my Government, which is prepared to render whatever additional assistance may be deemed advisable in the national interest. The present situation has emphasized the necessity of effecting a reduction in the costs of production and marketing of the wheat crop and of providing more stable markets, as the welfare of all parts of Canada is involved in satisfactory returns being received by the grain growers.

The broad outline of the general scheme of national development undertaken by my Government, including provision for old age pensions, aid to agriculture, technical education and highway construction, has already been made known. My Ministers are persuaded that this general scheme cannot advantageously be altered. Careful consideration has therefore been given to the progressive stages by which it will be carried out, and you will be asked to consider measures sanctioning such action as the current economic situation warrants, and such as can be undertaken without undue demands upon the national exchequer.

You will be asked to consider such further revision of the tariff as may be carried out with but incidental adjustments to the British Preference Schedules now in force.

You will have before you for consideration a Bill to create a Tariff Board, the purposes

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of which will be to ensure stability of trade, opportunities for the development of our home market by Canadian producers in fair competition with those of other nations, and the protection of our consumers from exploitation.

Amongst other measures to which your attention will be invited are Bills for the more effective control of national finance; for the revision of the existing provisions for Government purchases; for amending the Naturalization Act; and for amending the Copyright Act.

The reference to the Supreme Court of Canada of the respective jurisdictions of the Dominion and Provinces over radio broadcasting necessarily postpones any definite legislative action being taken until the opinion of the Court of last resort has been obtained.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted at an early date. The estimates will manifest my Ministers' resolve that, until the revenues of the country reflect a definite improvement in the economic situation, every economy compatible with the proper administration of the State will be exercised.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The policies and measures I have outlined are based upon the firm belief of my Government that this country is soon to enter upon a new era of prosperity, and that the proper development of its vast resources by a people pledged to unity and co-operation, and endowed with courage and industry, will ensure to Canada a leading place among the nations. I pray that Divine Providence, which has made you citizens of this favoured land, may guide and bless your deliberations.

His Excellency the Administrator was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

Prayers.

RAILWAY BILL

FIRST READING

Bill —, an Act relating to railways.—Hon. Mr. Robertson.

CONSIDERATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

On motion of Hon. Mr. Willoughby, it was ordered that the speech of His Excellency the Administrator be taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY moved:

That all the senators present during the session be appointed a committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

The motion was agreed to.