

Fifty-fifth annual report of the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, for the year 1921-22.—Hon. Mr. Lapointe.

Report of the Canadian Battlefields Memorials Commission from April 1, 1922, to date.—Hon. Mr. Graham.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AMALGAMATION

On the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Referring to the statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) yesterday, that there had been an amalgamation of the Grand Trunk with the National system, I should like to ask if he would intimate to the House to-day what orders have been passed under the Canadian National or other Acts effecting the amalgamation, and also if he will place such orders on the Table to-day?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I may promise my right hon. friend that I will place the orders on the Table to-day. I will send and get them at once.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR

Mr. MEIGHEN: In the same connection, some ten days ago the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Lapointe) is reported to have stated, I think in the city of Quebec, that there was to be added to the new Canadian National Board another representative from that province. Is that correct?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have discussed with Sir Henry Thornton the advisability of an additional director from the province of Quebec, and Sir Henry is of opinion and the government is also of opinion, that it is desirable to have a director appointed from the city of Quebec, and one will be appointed shortly.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Consideration of the motion of Mr. Putnam for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session, resumed from Thursday, February 1.

Mr. ROBERT FORKE (Brandon): Mr. Speaker, reference was made in the Speech from the Throne to the Governor General's visit to the West and North. I would like to say only this, that if the Governor General received as much pleasure from his visit

[Mr. Forke.]

to the West as the western people had in welcoming him there, it was a very happy visit that he had to the West. The Governor General made a very good impression, winning the hearts of all the western people, and there is nothing but the most pleasing recollections in connection with that visit.

Might I refer for a moment to the very kind notices that were taken of myself and the position which I now hold in the party in this part of the House? During the last month or six weeks I have been learning a great deal about myself, some of it very nice, some of it, perhaps, not quite so nice. Certain ideas, however, have been borne upon my mind, one of them being that I am canny. I have never failed to find that expression used by everyone in connection with myself since I have assumed the position of leader of the Progressive party. I hope that is true, and that if I am not going to shine as a brilliant light in this position, I am not going to make any very fatal mistakes anyway. I must thank the previous speakers for the very kind notice which they took of myself. I will say only this, that I hope, no matter what may be our political differences, they shall not interfere with our personal friendships. I am one of those who believe that we may have different points of view and yet all be thoroughly in earnest in what we advocate, working for the best interest of our country as a whole, so that I hope differences in politics will be no bar to friendship.

I must compliment the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I listened with a great deal of attention to the very eloquent speech made by the mover (Mr. Putnam), and I could not but feel a certain humility when I recollected the fact that I had sat in this House all during last session and scarcely ever heard that member make a speech in this chamber, and yet found that he had a gift of oratory and expression that, perhaps, very few can equal. I am sure that the House, as well as his constituency, is to be complimented on having an hon. member capable of making an address such as he made on that occasion. I remember, while speaking in the House last session, expressing my regret that I was unable to follow the speech made by the seconder of the Address. The same difficulty has occurred this year, and I still feel the same as I did last year, sorry that I am unable to understand the French language, and although a year older, expressing the same idea that I still would like to have a knowledge of that language.