

This increased prosperity and advancement have been aided by the policies of the Government and the reductions in expenditures and taxation made from time to time. In the opinion of my Ministers the improved conditions warrant further substantial reductions in taxation.

Every effort will be made further to reduce expenditures. To aid in the reduction of expenditures in administration certain of the departments of the public service will be consolidated with others and government services more effectively co-ordinated.

Our revenue is derived partly from taxes made necessary by the war and partly from other sources. In order that the people of the Dominion may have an exact knowledge of the sources of their revenue and the objects of its expenditure simplified forms of account will be issued periodically.

With the improvement of conditions throughout the country the Government have formulated and put into operation a comprehensive immigration plan. My Ministers desire it to be known that the Dominion welcomes settlers of the classes which can be absorbed into our population. Regulations have been simplified, transportation rates greatly reduced, and the care of settlers to destination and during early settlement given every attention. Measures will be taken to further the retention on the land of our existing agricultural population, to encourage the return to rural parts of urban dwellers possessed of agricultural experience, and the repatriation of Canadians now living in other countries. Special arrangements will be proposed for settlement on Crown Lands.

An agreement has been made between the Government and the railroad companies providing a larger measure of co-operation in immigration activities in the British Isles and on the continent of Europe. An agreement entered into with the British Government has already been instrumental in stimulating immigration from Great Britain.

While it is of importance to attract new settlers it is equally, if not more important, to assist those who are already established on the land by reducing the cost of agricultural production. To this end a measure will be introduced offering wide facilities for rural credits.

My Ministers are of the opinion that a general increase in the Customs Tariff would prove detrimental to the country's continued prosperity and prejudicial to national unity. In their view the incidence of this form of taxation should bear as lightly as possible upon the necessities of life and on agriculture and other primary industries. They believe that in the interest of industrial development every effort should be made to eliminate the element of uncertainty with respect to tariff changes; that changes in the tariff should be made only after the fullest examination of their bearing upon both primary and manufacturing industries and that representations requesting increase or decrease of duties should be made the subject of the most careful investigation and report by a body possessing the necessary qualifications to advise the Ministry with respect thereto. A Tariff Advisory Board will accordingly be appointed forthwith. This Board will be expected to make a careful study of the Customs Tariff, the revenue to be derived therefrom and the effect of the tariff and allied factors on industry and agriculture.

While recognizing the importance of the Canadian home market, the great value of markets in other countries for our natural and manufactured products must also be considered. In particular our trade within the Empire should be encouraged by all means consistent with our national welfare. In this connection

a trade agreement entered into with the British West Indies, Bermuda, British Guiana and British Honduras will be submitted for your approval.

In pursuance of the fixed policy of the Government to encourage the movement of grain and other Canadian products through Canadian ports, the Board of Railway Commissioners has been instructed to include in the General Rate investigation now in progress, a special inquiry into the causes of diversion of Canadian grain and other products through other than Canadian ports, and to take such action under the Railway Act as it may deem efficient to ensure as far as possible the utilization of Canadian ports for Canadian traffic.

My Government propose to submit provisions for the completion forthwith of the Hudson Bay Railway.

With a view to affording such remedies as may appear to be practical and appropriate, the Government also propose to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire fully into the claims that the rights of the Maritime Provinces in regard to the operation of the Inter-colonial Railway have not been observed, and that in regard to transportation, immigration, and other economic factors these provinces have suffered prejudicially, in their position under Confederation.

Your attention will be invited, among other measures, to a bill to provide for the transfer to the Province of Alberta of its natural resources, and to a bill amending the Dominion Elections Act.

Members of the House of Commons:

The 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 the policies and measures I have outlined, a sincere effort has been made to take into account the diversified conditions and interests of our Dominion in a manner which will promote mutual understanding and closer co-operation between all parts. It is believed that these measures which, taken together, form a co-ordinated plan of national progress, will ensure our common aim of a prosperous and united Canada.

In their consideration and in other of your public duties may Divine Providence guide and bless your deliberations.

#### MOTION FOR PRECEDENCE—GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT TO RETAIN OFFICE

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE: (Leader of the House): I move, seconded by Mr. Macdonald (Antigonish-Guysborough) 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 of the House except government notices of motion and introduction of bills, until disposed of. In order that nobody may be taken by surprise, I may say that, according to the officers of the House, the motion which I have submitted will appear under government notices of motion on Monday.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): As the House and the Chair are already informed, I have an amendment to propose to this motion. It is well, that we have returned at last to the regular