

Governor General's Speech

I have also the honour to inform the House that I received a communication from the Chief Electoral Officer, informing me that in accordance with Chapter 11, Section 10, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, he had received communications from several members notifying him of the following vacancies having occurred in the representation, namely:

Of Hon. John Alexander Stewart, member for the electoral district of Lanark, by decease.

Of David Arthur Lafortune, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Jacques Cartier, by decease.

Of Lucien Turcotte Pacaud, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Megantic, consequent upon the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown.

Of Edward Blackadder, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Halifax, by decease.

Of Onesiphore Turgeon, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Gloucester, consequent upon the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown.

And that the Chief Electoral Officer had accordingly issued new writs of election for the said electoral districts respectively.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I am glad to welcome you to a return to your parliamentary duties. In the interval which has elapsed since the last session, I have had the pleasure of extending my travels throughout Western Canada and as far as the Territory of the Yukon. The cordial hospitality everywhere enjoyed by Her Excellency and myself will be long remembered.

It is gratifying to note that in a period of world-wide trade depression following the Great War, Canada has made substantial progress towards recovery.

The increase in the volume of trade, the diminution of unemployment as compared with last winter, and the restoration of our currency to a position of equality with that of the neighbouring Republic, are indications of the improved situation. The economic condition in European countries makes for embarrassment the world over. A much better situation in Europe will be necessary before we can expect a complete restoration of confidence in business affairs here. In the meantime, the Dominion has much reason for satisfaction with the improvement that has taken place, and with the many evidences of a returning prosperity.

The desirability of obtaining the best available terms for the admission of our products in foreign markets has engaged the attention of the Ministry.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Conventions have been made to govern trade relations between France and Canada and between Italy and Canada. These Conventions will be submitted for your approval.

Since last session, acting under a Statute of 1919, with amendments thereto, an Order in Council has been passed appointing a Board of Directors to be known as The Board of Directors of the Canadian National Railway Company, having under its control and operation the various lines which go to make up the system, and also the Canadian Government Merchant Marine. The various units of the system are being consolidated as rapidly as possible. This, it is expected, will increase the efficiency and decrease the cost of operation.

It having been represented that an amalgamation of interests of shipping companies and vessel owners upon the Great Lakes has operated to control freight rates and insurance upon grain shipments in a manner which has deprived agriculturists of much of the benefit to which they were entitled, as well as led to discrimination against Canadian ports and harbours, a Royal Commission has been appointed to investigate and report upon this alleged combine.

A bill will be submitted to you to safeguard the interests of consumers and producers from undue enhancement of prices or unfair restriction of trade by combines, monopolies, trusts, or mergers.

As a consequence of an agreement entered into between the Government of Great Britain and members of the Canadian Government, the law with respect to the landing of imported animals in Great Britain has been amended by the British Parliament. The removal thereby effected of the embargo on Canadian cattle entering the United Kingdom is a source of general satisfaction. It has materially improved the outlook as regards live stock, and should lead to the re-establishment of a profitable trade with Great Britain.

The adverse conditions with which agriculture generally is confronted in many parts of Canada, despite the abundant crops of the past year, render it desirable that a special committee, with powers to make recommendations, be appointed to look into various agricultural matters such as the mixing of grain in private terminal elevators, the marketing of farm products, the development of the live stock industry, and the possibilities of further diversification in our Canadian agriculture.

The matter of securing an increasing flow of desirable settlers to develop the large areas still available for cultivation in Canada has had the serious consideration of my advisers. Additional advertising and general publicity campaigns have been launched in Great Britain and in the United States and, as opportunity offers, will be extended to other lands from which a suitable class of settlers may be attracted. In other particulars, the activities of the Department of Immigration and Colonization are being expanded.

The time for the usual decennial revision of the Bank Act having arrived, a measure for that purpose will be laid before you.

Having regard to the recent decennial census, a readjustment of the representation of the Provinces in the House of Commons, as required by the British North America Act, is also due. A Bill will be introduced for that purpose.

In pursuance of the announcement made in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of last Session a Postal Conference with the United States was held at Ottawa in the month of December last. The results of the Conference were embodied in a new Postal Convention which has been in force since January 1st. It is a pleasure to record that arrangements were made not only for extending and improving the international postal service, but also for the conveyance through the United States of parcel mail from Canada to all South American countries.