

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 4, 1932.

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.

Prayers.

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 three o'clock.

NEW SENATORS INTRODUCED

The following newly-appointed senators were severally introduced and took their seats:

Hon. Alexander Duncan McRae, of Vancouver, British Columbia, introduced by Hon. W. B. Willoughby and Hon. G. H. Barnard.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, of Toronto, Ontario, introduced by Hon. W. B. Willoughby and Hon. P. Poirier.

Hon. Charles Colquhoun Ballantyne, of Alma, Quebec, introduced by Right Hon. Arthur Meighen and Hon. L. C. Webster.

Hon. William Henry Dennis, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, introduced by Right Hon. Arthur Meighen and Hon. J. S. McLennan.

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 at-

tendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Third Session of the Seventeenth Parliament of Canada with the following Speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In addressing you for the first time, I desire to express my gratification at having been selected by His Majesty as his representative in the Dominion of Canada, and to acknowledge with profound thanks the reception which has been accorded to me by the people of this country. I accept it as a proof of their loyalty and devotion to the Crown. I shall count it a happiness as well as a duty to associate myself with you in your labours for the welfare of Canada.

You enter upon your duties at a time of continuing and universal economic disturbance and distress. World conditions are beyond the control of the Canadian people. But I rejoice that their resolute adherence to policies designed for the welfare of the nation has minimized the adverse influence of external economic forces. This period of trial has shown the Canadian situation to be fundamentally sound. The over-subscription of the National Service Loan manifests both the unity and patriotism of the people, and their supreme confidence in the financial strength of the Dominion. Canada still maintains its high place in world commerce. Within the last few months, a favourable balance of trade has been established. The provisions made at the last session of Parliament for unemployment and farm relief are proving effective.

You are successfully meeting difficult domestic problems. Conditions are gradually improving. But prosperity in full measure must await the satisfactory adjustment of accounts between debtor and creditor nations of the world and the restoration of international monetary standards, from which the acute financial difficulties have compelled a temporary departure.

Since the last session of Parliament my Ministers have commenced negotiations with the Government of the United States of America for the completion of the St. Lawrence Waterway.

A commission has been appointed to inquire into the whole problem of transportation in Canada. My Ministers expect that the report of the commission will be ready for submission to Parliament during the present session.

My Ministers have under consideration a commercial treaty with the Dominion of New Zealand.