

Thursday, 13th January, 1916.

The Members convened were:—

The Honourable PHILIPPE LANDRY, Speaker.

The Honourable Messieurs

Baird,	David,	Mason	Roche.
Beaubien,	Davis,	(Brigadier General),	Ross
Béique,	Dennis,	McCall,	(Moosejaw),
Beith,	Derbyshire,	McHugh,	Ross
Belcourt,	Dessaulles,	McLean,	(Middleton),
Bolduc,	Donnelly,	Milne,	Srouple,
Bostock,	Douglas,	Mitchell,	Talbot,
Bowell	Frost,	Montplaisir,	Tessier,
(Sir Mackenzie),	Gillmor,	Murphy,	Thibaudeau,
Boyer,	Godbout,	Owens,	Thompson,
Casgrain,	Gordon,	Poirier,	Thorne,
Cloran,	King,	Pope,	Watson,
Costigan,	LaRivière,	Power,	Wilson,
Dandurand,	Lavergne,	Prowse,	Yeo.
Daniel,	Lougheed,	Ratz,	

PRAYERS.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

The same was then read by the Honourable the Speaker, as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA.

OTTAWA, 4th January, 1916.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Royal Highness the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to formally open the Session of the Dominion Parliament on Thursday, the 13th January at Three o'clock.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

E. A. STANTON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

After awhile, His Royal Highness the Governor General having come, and being seated on the Throne,

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that,—It is His Royal Highness the Governor General's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.

Who being come with their Speaker, the Honourable Albert Sévigny, who said:—
May it please Your Royal Highness,—

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfill the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall in error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate then said:—

Mr. Speaker,—I am commanded by His Royal Highness the Governor General to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Royal Highness the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Since I last addressed you the war in which we are engaged has been continued with unabated vigour and varying fortunes.

The Empire's part therein has been amply maintained at sea by the inspiring achievements of the Navy, and on land by the distinguished valour of the great armies which have enrolled themselves in all parts of His Majesty's Dominions for the common defence of our liberties.

In a spirit of splendid loyalty and unfaltering devotion, India and the Overseas Dominions have vied with each other in co-operating with the Mother Country to achieve this great purpose.

The call to service has evoked a widespread and notable response in Canada. Already 120,000 men have crossed the seas, an equal number is now being actively trained and equipped for service abroad, and a call extending the authorized enlistment to half a million men has been received with warm enthusiasm.

At the front our gallant soldiers have met the enemy in repeated contests, and by their pre-eminent courage and heroic endurance have shed lustre upon their country and upheld its highest traditions.

Equally praiseworthy and impressive has been the self-sacrificing and loyal spirit shown by all the Canadian people who have freely dedicated their manhood and substance to the common defence of the Empire.

The life of the present Parliament expires in the autumn of this year, and, under existing legislation, a dissolution and election would be necessary in the early future. My advisers, however, are of the opinion that the wishes of the Canadian people and the present requirements of the war would be best met by avoiding the distraction and confusion consequent upon a general election at so critical a time.

That purpose can only be effected through the medium of legislation by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. A resolution authorizing and requesting the enactment of such legislation as will extend the life of this Parliament for the period of one year will be presented to you.

Measures will be submitted for your consideration to further the effective co-operation of Canada in the defence of the Empire and in the maintenance of this war, waged for liberty and lasting peace.

It is a matter for profound thankfulness that Providence has blessed the labours of our husbandmen during the past year with the most bountiful harvest in the history of Canada.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the last, and the estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted to you without delay, and you will be asked to make the necessary financial provision for the effective conduct of the war.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

The high courage, the splendid heroism, and the unalterable determination which have marked the united efforts of all portions of His Majesty's Dominions, during a year of unprecedented strain and effort, justify our supreme confidence in the triumph of our cause and in the lasting affirmation of the principles of liberty and justice throughout the world. I commend to your earnest consideration the measures which will be submitted to you for aiding in that great purpose, and I pray that the Divine blessing may rest upon your counsels.

His Royal Highness the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The Senate resumed.

The Honourable Mr. Lougheed presented to the Senate a Bill () intituled:—
“An Act relating to Railways.”

The said Bill was read a first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of the Speech of His Royal Highness the Governor General, had been left in his hands.

The same was then read by the Honourable the Speaker.

Ordered, That the Speech of His Royal Highness the Governor General be taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

By unanimous consent, it was

Ordered, That all the Senators present during this 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 Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate the Report of the Joint Librarians on the state of the Library for the year 1915.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows:—

To the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate:—

The joint Librarians have the honour to report on the affairs of the Library of Parliament for the year 1915.

Owing to the partial cessation of publishing volumes of Miscellaneous Literature, the additions to the Library of such Literature have not been as many as usual.