

Whereupon the Honourable Mr. Talbot came to the Table and took and subscribed the Oath prescribed by law, which was administered by Samuel Edmour St. Onge Chapleau, Esquire, one of the Commissioners appointed for that purpose, and took his seat accordingly.

The Honourable the Speaker then acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table the Certificate of one of the Commissioners setting forth that the Honourable Mr. Talbot, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867.

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, and it is as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA,  
OTTAWA, 7th March, 1906.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Second Session of the Tenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada on Thursday, the 8th instant, at 3 o'clock, p.m.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. HANBURY-WILLIAMS, Colonel,

*Governor General's Secretary.*

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the Senate,  
&c., &c., &c.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Albert Henry George, Earl Grey, Viscount Howick, Baron Grey of Howick, in the County of Northumberland, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and a Baronet; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada, 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 Excellency's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.”

Who being come, with their Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In again summoning you to meet for the despatch of business, I am glad to be able to congratulate you on the prosperity prevailing throughout the Dominion.

The severe bereavement which Queen Alexandra has sustained through the death of her father, the King of Denmark, has occasioned much sorrow throughout the Empire, and I am satisfied that the warm sympathy of the people of Canada will be readily extended to Her Majesty.

It afforded me much pleasure as the representative of His Majesty to take part in the inauguration of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan as constituent members of the Confederation. The universal rejoicing on the assumption of provincial autonomy everywhere visible was gratifying to witness, and I venture to say that in

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no part of the world could a more contented population be found. The universal sentiment was one of abounding confidence in the future.

The bountiful harvest with which we have been blessed in the past season, together with the continued development of our industries and transportation facilities, have so stimulated business in all parts of Canada and have given such an impetus to our exports and imports that the trade both with the United Kingdom and foreign countries for the current fiscal year gives promise of being the largest on record.

The flow of immigrants seeking homes in the three prairie provinces still continues, and from the present outlook the number will be in excess of any previous year, and it is gratifying to note the increasing proportion from the British Isles.

A treaty on behalf of Canada has now been concluded between the United Kingdom and Japan which it is confidently hoped will largely increase our trade with the people of that progressive Empire. When the formal documents have been received they will be laid before you.

The rapid destruction of our forests now going on will, unless the operations of the lumbermen be prudently regulated in the future, and a system of reforestation adopted, result in grave consequences—affecting the uniform flow of our rivers and limiting our valuable water powers to a few months in the year. A Bill will be submitted for your consideration empowering the Government to set apart forest reserves on lands under its control.

In accordance with the offer made by my ministers to the Government of the United Kingdom, the Imperial treasury has now been relieved from the cost of garrisoning Halifax, and arrangements are in progress for taking over the defence of Esquimalt, and hereafter detachments from the Permanent Force of Canada will have charge of both those important stations.

You will be invited to consider the propriety of making such a change in the fiscal year as will bring it more into harmony with the active business season.

The result of the investigation into the administration of leading life insurance companies in the neighbouring Republic has naturally created some uneasiness in the public mind as to the condition of Canadian companies. A Commission has therefore been issued to inquire into and report on the management and financial standing, not only of companies holding Canadian charters but also of all companies doing business under license in Canada.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the exploration and surveys of the Eastern Division of the National Transcontinental Railway, and it is expected that contracts for the construction of two important sections embracing together about 400 miles will shortly be executed.

The interim report of the Canadian section of the International Waterway Commission will be laid before you. The work of the joint commission has been somewhat delayed owing to a doubt as to the jurisdiction of the American section. The great development of commerce on the waters dividing the two countries and the opportunities for the generating of electric power at many points necessarily evolve questions which can only be dealt with by international arrangement or by treaty. At Niagara the Commission will have to consider how best to preserve the scenic effect of the Falls, while not unduly restricting the use of the flow of the Niagara River so valuable for power purposes.

A report has been received from the Transportation Commission containing several important recommendations; the document will be laid before you.

The legal experts appointed to revise, classify and consolidate the public general statutes passed since the revision in 1886 have completed their task, and it is expected that the volumes will be ready for distribution before July.

A measure for the better observance of the Lord's Day will be submitted for your consideration.

You will be invited to consider among other subjects Bills to amend the Railway Act, the Fruit Marks Act, an Act respecting Usury and also the Dominion Elections Act.

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*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts for the past year will be laid before you; the estimates for the nine months, embracing a portion of the proposed fiscal year terminating on the thirty-first of March, 1907, will be submitted for your approval at an early day.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:**Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I invite your earnest attention to the several subjects I have mentioned and to the general business that will come before you, and I trust your deliberations will be guided by wisdom and moderation.

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

After some time the Senate was resumed.

**PRAYERS.**

The Honourable Mr. Scott, Secretary of State, presented to the Senate a Bill intitled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read a first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of His Excellency's Speech has been left in his hands.

The same was then read by His Honour the Speaker.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Scott, seconded by the Right Honourable Sir Richard Cartwright, it was

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration by the Senate on Monday next.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Scott, seconded by the Right Honourable Sir Richard Cartwright, 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.

With leave of the Senate.

The Honourable Mr. Scott moved, seconded by the Right Honourable Sir Richard Cartwright,

That when the Senate adjourns to-day it do stand adjourned until Monday next at Three o'clock in the afternoon.

The question of concurrence being put thereon, the same was resolved in the affirmative, and

Ordered accordingly.

Then, on motion of the Honourable Mr. Scott, seconded by the Right Honourable Sir Richard Cartwright,

The Senate adjourned until Monday next at Three o'clock in the afternoon.