

Commander of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire; Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order; Our Personal Aide-de-Camp, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of our Dominion of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, in our Dominion of Canada, this Twentieth day of November, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve, and in the Third Year of Our Reign.

By Command,

JAMES G. FOLEY,
*Clerk of the Crown in Chancery,
Canada.*

Whereupon the Honourable Mr. Dennis came to the Table and took and subscribed the oath prescribed by law, which was administered by Samuel Edmour St. Onge Chapleau, Esquire, a Commissioner appointed for that purpose; and took his seat accordingly.

The Honourable the Speaker then acquainted the Senate that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table the Certificate of one of the Commissioners setting forth that the Honourable Mr. Dennis, 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, 19th November, 1912.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Royal Highness the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament on Thursday the 21st instant, at 3 o'clock.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. LOWTHER, Lieut.-Colonel.
Governor General's Secretary.

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

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

His Royal Highness the Governor General, 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 the 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,

His Royal Highness 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:

I have during the past summer spent several months in visiting the principal cities and towns of Canada from coast to coast, and have endeavoured to make myself as far as possible acquainted with the conditions prevailing.

It has been a source of the deepest satisfaction to me to see the almost universal prosperity which reigns throughout the Dominion, and to witness the energy and enterprise which are shown in developing the rich resources of the land.

It is most gratifying to observe that the trade of the Dominion is increasing rapidly and steadily, the aggregate trade for the last fiscal year being the largest on record. During the present year the same steady increase has been noted, and it is anticipated that the total volume of our trade for the present fiscal year will greatly surpass that of any previous year in our history.

The revenues of the Dominion continue to expand, and in every branch of business and industry there is a remarkable activity which gives assurance of continued progress and prosperity.

A copious and welcome stream of immigration has poured into our country during the past summer. The volume of immigration during the present year is greater than during any corresponding period of our history, and in larger measure than usual it has been drawn from the British Islands.

The labours of the husbandman have been blessed with an ample return; and, although in some districts the weather has been unpropitious for the harvest, it is expected that the total value of our field crops will be greater than in any previous year.

Papers will be laid before you which embody trade arrangements that have been consummated between the Dominion and certain of His Majesty's possessions in the West Indies. It is hoped that these arrangements will prove of great advantage not only to those possessions, but to Canada as well. A Bill will be introduced for the purpose of carrying this agreement into effect.

During the past summer four members of my Government conferred in London with His Majesty's Government on the question of Naval Defence. Important discussions took place and conditions have been disclosed which in the opinion of my advisers render it imperative that the effective naval forces of the Empire should be strengthened without delay. My advisers are convinced that it is the duty of Canada at this juncture to afford reasonable and necessary aid for that purpose. A Bill will be introduced accordingly.

A contract for the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway from LePas to Port Nelson has been awarded and the work is being pushed forward with all possible speed.

It is abundantly evident that the highways of Canada constitute an important part of an efficient scheme of transportation. The necessity for improving our existing facilities in this regard is manifest and a Bill will be introduced for the purpose of enabling the Dominion to co-operate with the Provinces in the accomplishment of this most desirable purpose.

It is satisfactory to know that the proposal of my Government to co-operate with the governments of the various provinces in promoting the agricultural industry has met with hearty approval. The appropriations which were made last session in connection therewith have proved to be of marked benefit to the country. After a careful study of the whole question my advisers are convinced that co-operation with the provinces on well defined terms and conditions will achieve the best results along the lines of agricultural instruction. Any such policy to be effective must be continuous. Accordingly, a Bill will be introduced by which a substantial amount of money will be set apart from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purpose of assisting the provinces for a term of years in this highly important national work.

My Government has succeeded in securing certain reductions in cable rates and will continue its efforts to obtain still further reductions.

Under existing legislation the charters of the Banks will expire on the 1st day of July next. A Bill revising and extending these charters will be submitted for your consideration and approval.

Several other Bills will be submitted, including measures providing for increased representation of the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in the Senate.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you. It will be satisfactory to you to learn that the revenue has been ample to cover both ordinary and capital expenditure.

The estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted at an early date. They have been prepared with due regard on the one hand for economy, and on the other hand for the necessary development of the resources of the Dominion.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I invite your earnest consideration of the subjects to which I have alluded and I invoke the blessings of Divine Providence upon your deliberations.

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

After some time the Senate was resumed.

PRAYERS.

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 His Royal Highness' Speech had been left in his hands.

The same was then read by His Honour the Speaker.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Lougheed, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Corby, it was

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

With leave of the Senate,

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Lougheed, seconded by the Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, it was

Ordered, That all the Senators present during the Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Order 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 following Report from the Clerk of the Senate:—