

Friday, 14th February, 1879.

The Members convened were

The Honorable *ROBERT DUNCAN WILMOT*, Speaker.

The Honorable Messieurs

<i>Aikins,</i>	<i>Chapais,</i>	<i>Haviland,</i>	<i>Penny,</i>
<i>Alexander,</i>	<i>Christie,</i>	<i>Haythorne,</i>	<i>Power,</i>
<i>Allan,</i>	<i>Cochrane,</i>	<i>Hope,</i>	<i>Pozer,</i>
<i>Archibald,</i>	<i>Cormier,</i>	<i>Kaulbach,</i>	<i>Read,</i>
<i>Armand,</i>	<i>Cornwall,</i>	<i>Leonard,</i>	<i>Reesor,</i>
<i>Bellerose,</i>	<i>Dever,</i>	<i>Lewin,</i>	<i>Ryan,</i>
<i>Benson,</i>	<i>Dickey,</i>	<i>McClelan,</i>	<i>Scott,</i>
<i>Botsford,</i>	<i>Dumouchel,</i>	<i>McLelan,</i>	<i>Seymour,</i>
<i>Boucherville, de</i>	<i>Ferguson,</i>	<i>McMaster,</i>	<i>Simpson,</i>
<i>Bourinot,</i>	<i>Ferrier,</i>	<i>Macdonald,</i>	<i>Skead,</i>
<i>Brouse,</i>	<i>Flint,</i>	<i>Macfarlane,</i>	<i>Smith,</i>
<i>Brown,</i>	<i>Girard,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Stevens,</i>
<i>Bureau,</i>	<i>Glasier,</i>	<i>Miller,</i>	<i>Sutherland,</i>
<i>Campbell,</i>	<i>Grant,</i>	<i>Montgomery,</i>	<i>Thibaudiau,</i>
<i>Carrall,</i>	<i>Hamilton (Inkerman),</i>	<i>Pâquet,</i>	<i>Trudel,</i>
<i>Chaffers,</i>	<i>Hamilton (Kingston),</i>	<i>Pelletier,</i>	<i>Wark.</i>

PRAYERS :

The House was adjourned during pleasure,

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir JOHN DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND CAMPBELL (commonly called the Marquis of *Lorne*), Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of *St. Michael* and *St. George*, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., being seated in the Chair on the Throne,

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House—"It is His Excellency's pleasure they attend him immediately in this House."

Who, being come,

The Honorable *Joseph Godéric Blanchet* said :

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

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

If in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favorable consideration.

The Honorable the Speaker of this House then said :

MR. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's Person and Government; and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges. I am commanded, also, to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

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

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

In meeting the Parliament of *Canada* for the first time, I desire to express the gratification I feel at having been selected by Her Majesty for the high and important office I now fill, and to assure you of the great satisfaction with which I now seek your aid and co-operation.

In acknowledging with profound gratitude the reception which has been accorded to myself, as Her Majesty's representative, I am also commanded by The Queen to convey, through you, to the people of *Canada*, Her thanks for the loyal, generous and kindly manner in which they have welcomed Her daughter.

The contribution of Canadian products and manufactures to the great National exhibition at *Paris*, last year, attracted much attention, and, it is believed, will have a beneficial effect on the trade of the Dominion with *Europe*. I congratulate you on the success which must, in no small degree, be attributable to the kind and unceasing exertions of His Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, as President of the British section. The report of the Canadian Commissioners will be laid before you when received.

I am pleased to inform you that the amount awarded for the Fishery claims, under the *Washington Treaty*, has been paid by the *United States*, and that Her Majesty's Government has arranged with *Canada* and *Newfoundland* for their respective shares of the award. The papers on the subject shall be submitted to you.

The important and rapidly increasing trade between *Canada* and *England*, in live cattle, has been seriously threatened by the appearance, in various parts of the *United States*, of pleuro-pneumonia. In order to prevent the contagion from spreading to *Canada*, and the consequent interruption of the trade, I have caused an Order to be issued under "The Animal Contagious Diseases' Act, 1869," prohibiting the importation or introduction into the Dominion of American cattle, for a short period. It is hoped that the disease will be, ere long, extinguished in the *United States*, and the necessity for continuing the prohibition removed. Your attention will be invited to an amendment of the Act I have just referred to.

My Government has commenced negotiations, with Her Majesty's sanction, for the development of the trade of *Canada* with *France* and *Spain*, and with their respective colonies. I hope to be able to lay before you the result of these negotiations during the present session.

It is the purpose of my Government to press for the most vigorous prosecution of the Canadian *Pacific Railway* and to meet the reasonable expectations of *British Columbia*. In carrying out this intention, due regard must be had to the financial position of the country. Communication by rail has been effected between *Manitoba* and the *United States* system of railways, by the junction, at *St. Vincent*, of the *Pembina* branch of our railway, with the *St. Paul* and *Pacific Railroad*. That portion

of the main line which extends from *English River* to *Keewatin* is now being placed under contract, and will be energetically pushed to completion in order to secure, as rapidly as is possible, the connection between *Lake Superior* and the great *North-West*.

A Bill for the amendment and consolidation of the Acts relating to Stamps shall be submitted for your consideration, as well as a measure amending the Act relating to Weights and Measures.

The decennial census must be taken in 1881. I think it expedient that a measure for the purpose should be passed during the present Session in order to give ample time for the preparation of all the preliminary arrangements, and to ensure the census being taken as accurately and inexpensively as possible. In connection with this subject it may be well to consider the propriety of providing some means for the collection and collation of vital, criminal and general statistics.

A Bill will be laid before you for the re-arrangement of some of the Departments of the Government, and also measures relating to the survey and management of the Dominion Lands, to the Mounted Police, and to the Post Office Department; and also for the amendment, in some particulars, of the laws relating to Indians.

A measure will also be submitted to you for the vesting in Her Majesty, for the use of the Dominion, of certain ordnance and admiralty lands in the Provinces of *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you at an early day. They have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

I regret that the receipts into the Treasury from ordinary sources continue to be inadequate to meet the charges against the Consolidated Revenue. You will, I doubt not, agree with me in the opinion that it is not desirable that our finances should longer remain in this condition. By the application of the strictest economy to the public expenditure, and by the re-adjustment of the tariff with the view of increasing the revenue, and, at the same time, of developing and encouraging the various industries of *Canada*, you will, I trust, be enabled to restore the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, and to aid in removing the commercial and financial depression which unhappily continues to exist. I have directed that the Public Accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

Parliament has recognized the importance of providing for the safe deposit of the surplus earnings of the people by arranging for their being placed with the Government at a fair rate of interest. It may be well for you to consider how far it is practicable to give a like security and encouragement to persons who may desire, by an insurance upon their lives, to make provision for those dependent upon them.

Your best attention will, I doubt not, be given to the important subjects I have alluded to, and to the general interests of the country.

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

The Honorable Mr. *Campbell* presented to the House a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.