

Then the Honorable Mr. *MacInnes* took and subscribed the oath prescribed by Law, which was administered by *Robert LeMoine*, Esquire, a Commissioner appointed for that purpose, and took his seat accordingly.

The Honorable the Speaker 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 Honorable *Donald MacInnes*, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the *British North America Act, 1867*.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

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 *Saint Michael and Saint George*, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., being seated on 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 with their Speaker,

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:

The hope I expressed at the close of the last Session, that on the re-assembling of Parliament we should be able to congratulate ourselves on a season of peace and prosperity has been fully realized.

Canada has been favored with a year of great prosperity.

Her farmers have enjoyed a plentiful harvest and remunerative prices.

Her manufacturing and other industries have been and continue to be developed under favorable auspices.

Her trade and commerce have been steadily increasing, and peace and order prevail within her borders.

For these various blessings we cannot be sufficiently thankful to the Giver of all good things.

The Chief Magistrate of the *United States* has been cut off by the hand of an assassin, and it is fitting that the sorrow of our people for a loss which was not that of our friends and neighbors alone, should be here adverted to as another instance of the sympathy which unites in brotherhood the British Empire and the American Republic.

During the Recess I had the pleasure of visiting the Province of *Manitoba*, and of traversing the extensive prairies of the *North-West*, and from personal examination can sincerely congratulate *Canada* on the possession of so magnificent and fertile a region to be inhabited, I trust, in the course of years, by millions of thriving and contented subjects of Her Majesty.

The immigrants have not confined themselves to *Manitoba* or its vicinity, but are scattered over the country westward to the base of the *Rocky Mountains*, and from the international boundary to the banks of the Northern *Saskatchewan*. It is, therefore, thought that the time has come for the division of the Territories into four or more Provisional Districts with an appropriate nomenclature. The subject will be submitted for your consideration.

During my journey I was met by numerous Indian tribes, all expressing confidence in the continuance of the traditional policy of kindness and justice which has hitherto governed the relations between the Government and the Aborigines.

I regret, however, to say that the necessity of supplementing the food supply of the Indians still exists and is likely to continue for some years.

Every exertion has been made to settle the Indian Bands on Reserves, and to induce them to betake themselves to the raising of cattle and cultivating the soil.

These efforts have met with a fair measure of success, but we can only expect by a long continuance of patient firmness to induce these children of the Prairie and the Forest to abandon their nomadic habits, become self-supporting, and ultimately add to the industrial wealth of the country.

The influx of a white population has greatly increased the danger of collision between the settler and Red man, and in my opinion renders an augmentation of the Mounted Police a matter of urgency. Your sanction to this increase will be sought.

The second Report of the Commission appointed to investigate the existing system of the Civil Service will be laid before you, and a measure on the subject submitted for your consideration.

The decennial Census having been taken last year, the duty of reconsidering and re-adjusting the representation in the House of Commons is imposed upon you. A measure for the purpose will be laid before you.

Several other measures of importance will be submitted to you. Among them will be Bills for the winding up of Insolvent Banks, Insurance Companies and Trading Corporations; for the consolidation and amendment of the Laws respecting the Dominion Lands; for the amendment of the Acts relating to the Supreme Court of Canada, and Bills relating to the tenure of office of the Judges of County Courts, and to Fugitive Offenders within the Empire; and your attention will be called to the present anomalous position of the Vice-Admiralty jurisdiction.

The work of construction on that portion of the Canadian *Pacific* Railway between *Prince Arthur's Landing* and *Winnipeg* is being pressed to completion, and it is confidently expected that in July next, railway communication will be established between those places. The section between *Rat Portage* and *Winnipeg*, one hundred and thirty-five miles in length, has been completed and transferred under the terms of the contract, to the Canadian *Pacific* Railway Company, by whom it is now operated. Considerable progress has been made on the Eastern Section, commencing at *Callander* Station, and the vigorous prosecution of the work on that portion of the line during the present year provided for.

In *British Columbia* the work upon the section between *Savona's Ferry* and *Emory's Bar* is being carried on, with every prospect of its completion within the time specified in the contract, and the line from the latter place to *Fort Moody*, which has been carefully located during the past season, is now being placed under contract with a view to its completion at the same date as the section from *Savona's Ferry* to *Emory's Bar*.

Upon the sections to be constructed by the Railway Company, the work has been most energetically carried forward. During the past summer the road has been graded for the distance of two hundred and eighteen miles, and of this, one hundred and sixty-one miles are open for traffic.

The Company have, in addition, graded eighty-nine miles of branch lines.

I am pleased to be able to state that the traffic on the Intercolonial Railway has largely increased, and that this line was during the last fiscal year, for the first time in its history, worked without loss to the country.

The works on the *Welland* Canal were so far advanced that the waters of *Lake Erie* were introduced for its supply in June last, and in September the new portion of the Canal between *Allanburg* and *Port Dalhousie* was opened for traffic.

You will be pleased to know that a monthly line of steamers which has been subsidized under the authority of Parliament, is now plying between the Dominion and *Brazil*, with good hopes of a mutually profitable trade.

The Report of a Royal Commission issued to inquire into the question of factory labor, and into the best means of promoting the comfort and well-being of the workingman and his family, without undue interference with the development of our manufacturing industries, will be laid before you, and I invite your earnest consideration of this report.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The Accounts of the last year will be laid before you. It will be satisfactory to you to find that the Expenditure has been less and the Revenue considerably more than the Estimates of last year, leaving a surplus of over four millions of dollars. A portion of this sum has been used in the reduction of the public debt by the redemption of matured debentures bearing six per cent. interest, and the remainder applied to the payment for public works chargeable to capital account. The necessity of issuing the Debenture Loan authorized by Parliament for those purposes has therefore been obviated.

The Estimates of the ensuing year will also be submitted, and will, I trust, be found to have been framed with due regard to economy and the efficiency of the public service.

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

I now invite your attention to the several subjects mentioned and to the general business which will come before you, with full confidence in your ability and patriotic desire to forward the best interests of the country.

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

The House resumed.

The Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell* presented to the House, a Bill intituled :
"An Act relating to Railways,"
The said Bill was read for the first time.

The Honorable the Speaker reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, and the same was then read by the Clerk.

On motion of the Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Hamilton (Kingston)*, it was

Ordered, That the House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to-morrow.

On motion of the Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Hamilton (Kingston)*, it was

Ordered, That all the Members present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of this House and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in this House, when and as often as they please.

Then, on motion of the Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Hamilton (Kingston)*,
The House adjourned.