

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

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

OTTAWA, 24th February, 1886.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Thursday, the 25th instant, at 3 o'clock.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. STREATFEILD,

*Governor General's Secretary.*

The Honorable

The Speaker of the Senate.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Most Honorable Sir HENRY CHARLES KEITH PETTY-FITZMAURICE, Marquis of Lansdowne, in the County of Somerset, Earl of Wycombe, of Chipping-Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, Viscount Caln and Calnstone in the County of Wilts, and Lord Wycombe, Baron of Chipping-Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Earl of Kerry and Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Clanmaurice and Fitzmaurice, Baron of Kerry, Lixnaw and Dunkerron, in the Peerage of Ireland, 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 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 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 :*

On meeting you again I have the pleasing duty to perform of congratulating you on the sufficient harvest of last year and on the prosperity and substantial progress of the country.

Since the suppression of the insurrection in the North-West Territories peace and order have been restored and now prevail. After so serious an outbreak some disquiet and apprehension of the recurrence of those disorders may naturally be expected to linger, and it will be the duty of the Government to make such precautionary arrangements as will assure the present inhabitants, as well as intending settlers, of efficient protection against all disturbance.

I warmly congratulate you on the practical completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on the announcement that it will be open for the daily carriage of passengers and freight from Ocean to Ocean, in the month of June next. This great work, so important alike to the Empire and the Dominion, cannot fail to increase the trade between British Columbia and the other Provinces, to ensure the early development and settlement of Manitoba and the North-West, and greatly to add to the commercial prosperity of the whole country.

Should the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the appointment of a Joint Commission to adjust what is known as "The Fishery Question" and to consider the best means of developing our International Commerce, fail to secure any satisfactory result, you will be asked to make provision for the protection of our inshore Fisheries by the extension of our present system of Marine Police.

The measure submitted to you last Session for the consolidation of the Statutes and for the introduction into the North-West Territories of a more simple and economical system for the transfer of land will be again laid before you for consideration and legislative action. The Acts of last Session will be found to be included in the first of those measures.

You will also be asked to consider the expediency of improving the judiciary system which obtains in those Territories.

Your attention will be invited to the propriety of amending the law relating to the business of the office of Queen's Printer and of providing for the more satisfactory working of the present system of Government and Parliamentary printing.

A numerical census of the North-West Territories has been taken and a measure based thereon for the representation of the people in Parliament will be laid before you.

Other measures will be laid before you, and among them will be found Bills for providing for a better mode of trial of claims against the Crown, for regulating Post Office Savings Banks in British Columbia and the North-West Territories, for expediting the issue of patents for Indian Lands, for the administration of the rights of the Crown in the foreshores of the Dominion, for the establishment of an Experimental Farm, and for the amendment of the Chinese Immigration Act.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts for the past year will be laid before you. You will find that the estimate of receipts has been fully realized, but I regret to say that the outbreak in the North-West has added largely to the expenditure of the country.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be submitted to you. They have been prepared with due regard to economy and the requirements of the Public Service.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I commend these several subjects and the others which may engage your attention to your best consideration, and I earnestly trust that the result of your deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, conduce to the advancement and prosperity of Canada.

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

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. Smith, it was

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