

JOURNALS  
OF  
THE SENATE  
OF  
CANADA.

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Thursday, 10th February, 1876.

Thursday, the tenth day of the month of February, in the thirty-ninth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady Queen *Victoria*, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, Queen, Defender of the Faith, being the Third Session of the Third Parliament of the Dominion of *Canada*, as continued by several prorogations to this day.

The Members in attendance in the Senate Chamber in the City of *Ottawa*, were

The Honorable *DAVID CHRISTIE*, Speaker.

The Honorable Messieurs

<i>Alexander,</i>	<i>Chapais,</i>	<i>McMaster,</i>	<i>Simpson,</i>
<i>Archibald,</i>	<i>Cormier,</i>	<i>Macdonald,</i>	<i>Skead,</i>
<i>Armand,</i>	<i>Cornwall,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Smith,</i>
<i>Bellerose,</i>	<i>Dever,</i>	<i>Miller,</i>	<i>Sutherland,</i>
<i>Benson,</i>	<i>Fabre,</i>	<i>Pâquet,</i>	<i>Trudel,</i>
<i>Botsford,</i>	<i>Ferguson,</i>	<i>Penny,</i>	<i>Vidal,</i>
<i>Bourinot,</i>	<i>Hamilton (Kingston),</i>	<i>Perry,</i>	<i>Wark,</i>
<i>Bureau,</i>	<i>Letellier de St. Just,</i>	<i>Read,</i>	<i>Wilmot.</i>
<i>Carrall,</i>	<i>McDonald,</i>	<i>Scott,</i>	
<i>Chaffers,</i>	<i>McLelan,</i>	<i>Seymour.</i>	

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir *Frederick Temple*, Earl of *Dufferin*, Viscount and Baron *Clandeboye of Clandeboye*, in the County *Down*, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron *Dufferin and Clandeboye of Ballyleidy and Killeleagh*, in the County *Down*, in the Peerage of *Ireland*, and a Baronet, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of *Saint Patrick*, and Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &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 pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate;*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I have much pleasure in again calling you together to attend to the business of the country.

Since you last assembled it has been my happiness to visit the Mother Country, and to have had the opportunity while there of calling public attention to the remarkable progress of the Dominion, and of giving expression to the feelings of attachment to the person of Her Majesty and the interests of the Empire which animate the Canadian people.

The great depression which has prevailed throughout the neighbouring countries for several years, and which has more recently been felt in the old world, causing a general stagnation of business, has extended to *Canada* and has seriously affected our trade. At the same time, we have reason to be grateful for an abundant harvest; and while I deeply regret the suffering which exists among certain classes and in particular localities, I believe nevertheless that the great bulk of our people continue to enjoy a condition of reasonable prosperity.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the fact that the great railway undertaking, connecting the former Province of *Canada* with the Maritime Provinces, provided for by the Act of 1867, is approaching completion. Early in the coming summer, the small portion of the Intercolonial line not already in operation will be opened, when the connection with other systems of railway will be formed, so as to enable passengers and traffic to pass over continuous lines of railway from *Halifax* or *St. John* to the extreme western railways of *Ontario*.

The opening of the *Prince Edward Island* Railway during the past year marks an epoch in the history of that Island, and cannot but exert a beneficial influence on the people, and add to their material prosperity.

Every effort has been made to obtain an early settlement of the claims of *Canada* for compensation for the use of her Fisheries by the *United States*, as provided by the Treaty of *Washington*. Her Majesty's Government in the early part of last summer, at the instance of my advisers, appointed the British Commissioner, but I regret to have to state that the *United States* Government have not yet appointed a Commissioner, and that consequently no progress has been made.

I have given effect to the Supreme and Exchequer Court Act of last Session by issuing the proclamations, and by appointing the Judges and officers of the Court.

A Bill to simplify and amend the law relating to Common Carriers will be submitted for your consideration.

A Bill will be brought before you containing provisions for affording greater security to policy holders in Life Assurance Companies.

The want of reliable and systematised information relating to the several classes of crime and the importance of collecting and classifying criminal statistics have engaged my attention. A Bill will be introduced to provide for what is most essential in this direction.

You will be asked to make provisions for the commencement of the work of consolidating the Statute Law.

The Acts relating to the enfranchisement of Indians and the management of Indian affairs have been fully considered, and steps have been taken to ascertain the views of the Indians themselves. A measure on this subject will be submitted for your approval.

A measure will be introduced to provide for the better administration of the estates of Insolvent Banks.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts for the past and the Estimates for the next financial year will be laid before you. The Estimates have been framed with every possible economy consistent with the public interests. I regret that the depression in trade to which I have alluded, has seriously affected the revenue. It will be necessary in view of this circumstance to curtail the expenditures in the several branches of the public service.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

Correspondence, Reports, and other Papers regarding the construction of the Pacific Railway will be laid before you.

During the recess, a deputation from the Government of *Manitoba* visited *Ottawa* to invite the attention of the Government of the Dominion to the circumstances of that Province. They represented that the income of the Province was insufficient to provide for its ordinary governmental expenses. The papers on this subject will be laid before you, and certain propositions will be submitted for your consideration. The Legislature of *Manitoba* has in the meantime adopted some measures to reduce the expenditures of the Province.

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

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

PRAYERS :

The Honorable Mr. *Letellier de St. Just* 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 Mr. *Letellier de St. Just*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Scott*, it was

*Ordered*, That the House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General on Monday next.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Letellier de St. Just*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Scott*, it was

*Resolved*, That all 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.

The Honorable Mr. *Letellier de St. Just* moved, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Scott*,

That when the House adjourns this 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.

Then, on motion of the Honorable Mr. *Letellier de St. Just*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Scott*,

The House adjourned.

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