

J O U R N A L S
OF
T H E S E N A T E
OF
C A N A D A .

Thursday, 15th April, 1869.

Thursday, the fifteenth day of the month of April, in the thirty-second year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady *Victoria*, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, Queen, Defender of the Faith, being the second Session of the first 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 *Joseph Edouard Cauchon*, Speaker.

The Honorable Messieurs

<i>Aikins,</i>	<i>Campbell,</i>	<i>Holmes,</i>	<i>Olivier,</i>
<i>Allan,</i>	<i>Chapais,</i>	<i>Kenny,</i>	<i>Reesor,</i>
<i>Archibald,</i>	<i>Christie,</i>	<i>Lacoste,</i>	<i>Ross,</i>
<i>Armand,</i>	<i>Cornier,</i>	<i>Leslie,</i>	<i>Ryan,</i>
<i>Benson,</i>	<i>Dickey,</i>	<i>Letellier de St. Just,</i>	<i>Seymour,</i>
<i>Bill,</i>	<i>Ferguson,</i>	<i>Mc Crea,</i>	<i>Shaw,</i>
<i>Blake,</i>	<i>Ferrier,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Slead,</i>
<i>Bourinot,</i>	<i>Foster,</i>	<i>Malhiot,</i>	<i>Wark,</i>
<i>Bureau,</i>	<i>Guévremont,</i>	<i>Mills,</i>	<i>Wilmot.</i>
<i>Burnham,</i>	<i>Hamilton (Inkerman),</i>	<i>Mitchell,</i>	

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir *John Young*, Baronet, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of Her Majesty's Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor General of *Canada*, &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 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 great satisfaction in having recourse to your advice, and I rejoice to think that on this, the first occasion on which I have had the honor of addressing you, we may congratulate ourselves on the aspect of public affairs at home and abroad, on the prevalence of peaceful counsels amongst nations, and on indications of agreement and tranquillity favorable alike to the development of foreign commerce and the prosecution of domestic industry.

The great scheme of Confederation was successfully inaugurated under the auspices of my Predecessor.

It is to me a source of pride to find my name in honorable association with the rising fortunes of the Dominion of *Canada*, and I shall count it a happiness, as well as a duty, to co-operate, to the utmost of my ability, in furthering your efforts to strengthen the ties that bind the different provinces together, and to ensure the attachment of the people to the soil, by the enactment of wise and equal laws.

Your efforts in these directions seem now, more than ever, likely to be called into action, inasmuch as the terms upon which great accessions are offered to the Dominion, will be submitted for your immediate consideration.

In consequence of the Duke of *Buckingham* and *Chandos'* despatch of the 8th August of last year, stating that His Grace proposed to enter into negotiations with the *Hudson Bay* Company, as to the terms on which they would be willing to surrender their rights and claims in the North-West Territory, Lord *Monck* sent home to *England* two members of the Privy Council as a deputation to watch the course of the proceedings and attend to the interests of *Canada*.

The conferences in *London*, and the correspondence on the subject have been brought to a definitive issue by the proposal which, after a full review of the circumstances, Earl *Granville* made on the part of Her Majesty's Government for the consideration of the people of *Canada* and of the *Hudson Bay* Company.

I have received the intelligence that the *Hudson Bay* Company has, after some deliberation, decided upon accepting the terms laid down by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have directed that the report of the mission, and all the papers connected therewith, shall be duly laid before Parliament, and I commend them to your serious consideration in view of the great importance of the subject, no less than in the hope that this long vexed question may be closed without further delay.

I was much gratified by communications from the Governor of *Newfoundland*, expressing the desire for admission into the Union which prevails amongst the inhabitants of that Colony, and especially by his despatch of the 20th March last, covering copies of Resolutions which have been passed by the Council and Assembly, and which set forth the conditions they consider it desirable to advance.

These documents shall be furnished at once for the information of Parliament, and I hope that before the close of the Session I may be in a position to submit the details of a provisional arrangement for your consideration.

It will be a sensible pleasure to me, as well as a topic of general congratulation, if at some early day the fine Colony of *Newfoundland*, unrivalled as the nursery of hardy seamen, and inexhaustible in its wealth of Fisheries becomes part of the Dominion.

In accordance with the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, an earnest attempt has been made to allay the discontent unhappily existing in *Nova Scotia*. The papers connected with this subject will be submitted for your favorable consideration.

In continuance of the course commenced last Session, Bills will be presented to you for the assimilation of the Criminal laws existing in the several Provinces. No greater boon can be conferred on a Country than a well defined code of criminal law, of general application and easy ascertainment.

Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you for the establishment of uniform and amended laws respecting Parliamentary Elections, Bankruptcy and Insolvency, and Patents of invention and discovery.

Gentleman of the House of Commons,—

The estimates for the expenditure of the coming financial year will be submitted to you.

They have been framed with every economy compatible with the efficiency of the Public Service. I have also desired that the financial accounts of the past year shall be laid before you.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate and Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—

The charters of several Banks are drawing to a close, and the important subjects of Banking and Currency will be brought under your notice.

In considering these questions, which so deeply affect, not only the important interests of Commerce, but the daily transactions of life, I feel assured that you will endeavour to adopt such principles as, in their application, may ensure the greatest measure of safety to the Public, without curtailing the facilities requisite for the encouragement and extension of Trade.

I have enumerated a variety of topics, but they are of moment and press for decision within the limits of the Session. I commit them in all confidence to your deliberate judgment, earnestly hoping that a blessing may attend your counsels and enable you to discharge, with dignity and effect, the great trust to which the order of Providence has called you.

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

PRAYERS.

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.

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. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Kenny*, it was

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

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be printed in both languages, for the use of Members.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Kenny*, it was

Ordered, That all the Members present during this Session, be appointed a Committee to consider of 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 Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Kenny*.

The House adjourned until to-morrow, at three o'clock in the afternoon.