

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 Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c. At our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, in Our Dominion of Canada, this ninth day of November, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-seven, and in the fifty-first Year of Our Reign.

By Command,

R. POPE,

Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, Canada.

The Honorable Mr. Macdonald came to the Table and took and subscribed the Oath prescribed by Law, which was administered by Edouard Joseph Langevin, Esquire, a Commissioner appointed for that purpose, and took his seat accordingly.

The Honorable the Speaker then 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 Mr. Macdonald, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867.

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, 21st February, 1888.

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 23rd instant, at 3 o'clock.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY STREATFEILD,

Captain, 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.

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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 :*

It affords me much gratification to meet you once more at the commencement of the Parliamentary Session, and to congratulate you upon the general prosperity of the country.

Although the labors of the husbandman have not been rewarded in some portions of the Dominion by an adequate return, the harvest of last year has on the whole been plenteous, while in Manitoba and the North-West Territories it was one of remarkable abundance.

The negotiations between her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the adjustment of what is known as "The Fishery Question" have, I am pleased to inform you, resulted in a Treaty which will, I venture to hope, be considered by you as honorable and satisfactory to both nations.

The Treaty, with the papers and correspondence relating thereto, will be laid before you, and you will be invited to adopt a measure to give effect to its provisions.

The extension and development of our system of railways have not only rendered necessary additional safeguards for life and property, but have given greater frequency to questions in which the interests of rival companies are found to be in conflict, and to require authoritative adjustment. As further legislation appears to be needed for these purposes, a measure will be submitted to you for the consolidation and improvement of "The Railway Act."

Experience having shown that amendments are required to make the provisions of the Act respecting Elections of the Members of the House of Commons more effective and more convenient in their operation, you will be asked to consider a measure for the amendment of that Statute.

The Act respecting Controverted Elections may likewise require attention with a view to the removal of certain questions of interpretation which have arisen and which should be set at rest.

My Government has availed itself of the opportunity afforded by the recess to consider the numerous suggestions which have been made for improving the details of the Act respecting the Election Franchise, and a measure will be submitted to you for the purpose of simplifying the law and greatly lessening the cost of its operation.

The growth of the North-West Territories renders expedient an improvement in the system of government and legislation affecting those portions of the Dominion, and a Bill for that purpose will be laid before you.

A Bill will be submitted to you to make a larger portion of the modern laws of England applicable to the Province of Manitoba and to the North-West Territories in regard to matters which are within the control of the Parliament of Canada, but which have not as yet been made the subject of Canadian legislation.

Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you relating to the Judiciary, to the Civil Service Act, and to the audit of the Public Accounts.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts for the past year will be laid before you as well as the Estimates for the ensuing year. They have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

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*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I commend these important subjects and all matters affecting the public interests which may be brought before you to your best consideration, and I feel assured that you will address yourselves to them with earnestness and assiduity.

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

The Honorable Mr. Abbott 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. Abbott, 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.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. Abbott, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Smith, 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.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. Abbott, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Scott, it was

Ordered, That the Clerk be authorized to receive from the Honorable George Alexander, who has been absent from his seat in this House, through illness, during the last Session of Parliament, the renewed declaration of his property qualification, as required by the Standing Resolution of the Senate, passed on the ninth day of April, 1880.

Then, on motion of the Honorable Mr. Abbott, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Smith,

The House adjourned.