

Thursday, 30th April, 1891.

The Members convened were:—

The Honourable *ALEXANDRE LACOSTE*, Speaker.

The Honourable Messieurs

<i>Abbott,</i>	<i>Dever,</i>	<i>McKay,</i>	<i>Perley,</i>
<i>Allan,</i>	<i>Dickey,</i>	<i>McKindsey,</i>	<i>Poirier,</i>
<i>Almon,</i>	<i>Drummond,</i>	<i>McMillan,</i>	<i>Power,</i>
<i>Armand,</i>	<i>Flint,</i>	<i>Macdonald</i>	<i>Prowse,</i>
<i>Bellerose,</i>	<i>Girard,</i>	(<i>Victoria, B.C.</i>),	<i>Read (Quinté),</i>
<i>Bolduc,</i>	<i>Glasier,</i>	<i>Macpherson</i>	<i>Ross,</i>
<i>Botsford,</i>	<i>Gowan,</i>	(<i>Sir David Lewis</i>),	<i>Sanford,</i>
<i>Boucherville, de,</i>	<i>Grant,</i>	<i>Merner,</i>	<i>Scott,</i>
<i>Boulton,</i>	<i>Guévremont,</i>	<i>Miller,</i>	<i>Smith,</i>
<i>Boyd,</i>	<i>Haythorne,</i>	<i>Montgomery,</i>	<i>Stevens,</i>
<i>Carling,</i>	<i>Kaulbach,</i>	<i>Montplaisir,</i>	<i>Sutherland,</i>
<i>Casgrain,</i>	<i>Lougheed,</i>	<i>Murphy,</i>	<i>Tassé,</i>
<i>Chaffers,</i>	<i>McCallum,</i>	<i>O'Donohoe,</i>	<i>Thibaudeau,</i>
<i>Clemow,</i>	<i>McClelan,</i>	<i>Ogilvie,</i>	<i>Vidal,</i>
<i>Cochrane,</i>	<i>McDonald (C.B.),</i>	<i>Pâquet,</i>	<i>Wark.</i>
<i>De Blois,</i>	<i>McInnes,</i>	<i>Pelletier,</i>	
	(<i>Victoria, B.C.</i>),		

PRAYERS :

The Honourable 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, 29th April, 1891.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to formally open the session of the Dominion Parliament, on Thursday, the 30th instant, at 3 o'clock.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES COLVILLE, Major,
Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable,

The Speaker of the Senate.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Frederick Arthur Stanley, Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same, being seated in the Chair on the Throne.

The Honourable 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,

The Honourable Peter White said :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency’s person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable consideration.

The Honourable the Speaker of this House then said :

MR. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty’s Person and Government; and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges. I am commanded, also, to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I am glad to welcome you to the duties of the first Session of a new Parliament, which I hope will be memorable for wise deliberations, and for measures adapted to the progress and development of the Dominion.

The season in which you are assembled has opened auspiciously for the industries of our people. Let us hope that their labours may be crowned with fruitful returns from land and sea, and that the great resources of Canada may continue to reward the toil and enterprise of its inhabitants.

My advisers, availing themselves of opportunities which were presented in the closing months of last year, caused the Administration of the United States to be reminded of the willingness of the Government of Canada to join in making efforts for the extension and development of the trade between the Republic and the Dominion, as well as for the friendly adjustment of those matters of an international character which remain unsettled. I am pleased to say that these representations have resulted in an assurance that, in October next, the Government of the United States will be prepared to enter on a Conference to consider the best means of arriving at a practical solution of these important questions. The papers relating to this subject will be laid before you.

Under these circumstances, and in the hope that the proposed Conference may result in arrangements beneficial to both countries, you will be called upon to consider the expediency of extending, for the present season, the principal provisions of the protocol annexed to the Washington Treaty, 1888, known as the *Modus Vivendi*.

A disposition having been manifested in the United Kingdom to impose on sea-going ships engaged in the cattle trade increased safeguards for life and greater restrictions against improper treatment, a careful enquiry has been made as to the

incidents of that trade in so far as this country is concerned. The evidence elicited on this enquiry will be laid before you. While I am glad to learn that our shipping is free from reproach in that regard, your attention will be invited to a measure which will remove all reasonable apprehensions of abuses arising in the future in connection with so important a branch of our commerce.

The early coming into force of the Imperial Statute relating to the Vice-Admiralty Courts of the Empire has made it necessary to revise the laws in force in Canada respecting our courts of maritime jurisdiction, and a measure will therefore be laid before you designed to reorganize those tribunals.

A Code of the Criminal Law has been prepared in order that that branch of our jurisprudence may be simplified and improved, to which your best attention is invited.

Measures relating to the Foreshores of the Dominion and to the obstruction of its navigable waters, will be submitted to you, and you will also be asked to consider amendments to the Acts relating to the North-West Territories, to the Exchequer Court Act, and to the Acts relating to Trade Marks.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The Accounts for the past year will be submitted to you. The Revenue, after providing for the services to which you appropriated it, has left a surplus for the works which you designed to be carried on by Capital expenditure.

The Estimates for the coming year will be laid before you at an early date.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I pray that in the consideration of these matters, and in the performance of all the labours which will devolve on you, your deliberations may be Divinely aided, and that your wisdom and patriotism may enlarge the prosperity of the Dominion, and promote in every way the well-being of its people.

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

The Honourable Mr. Abbott presented to the House, a Bill intituled : "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

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

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Abbott, seconded by the Honourable 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 Honourable Mr. Abbott, seconded by the Honourable 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.

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the House,—The Report of the Joint Librarians on the state of the Library of Parliament, for the year 1890.

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

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE.

The Joint Librarians of Parliament have the honour to report as follows for the year 1890-91.

Several important additions have been made to the section of old works on Canada.