

JOURNALS

OF THE

SENATE OF CANADA.

Thursday, 16th March, 1899.

Thursday, the sixteenth day of March, in the sixty-second 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 Fourth Session of the Eighth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, as continued by Prorogation to this day.

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

The Members convened were :—

The Honourable Sir *CHARLES ALPHONSE PANTALEON PELLETIER*,
K.C.M.G., Speaker,

The Honourable Messieurs

Allan,	Cochrane,	Macdonald (P.E.I.),	Prinrose,
Almon,	Dandurand,	MacInnes,	Prowse,
Armand,	Dever,	MacKeen,	Reid,
Baird,	Dickey,	Macdonald (B.C.),	Ross,
Baker,	Dobson,	McKay,	Sanford,
Bellerose,	Drummond,	McMillan,	Soett,
Bernier,	Fiset,	Mills,	Temple,
Bolduc,	Forget,	Montplaisir,	Thibaudeau (de la
Boucherville, de (C.M.G.),	Hingston (Sir William),	O'Brien,	Vallière),
Bowell (Sir Mackenzie),	King,	Owens,	Thibaudeau (Rigaud),
Carmichael,	Landry,	Perley,	Vidal,
Casgrain,	Lewin,	Poirier,	Villeneuve,
Clemow,	Lougheed,	Power,	Yeo.

PRAYERS.

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

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

OTTAWA, 14th March, 1899.

SIR,—I have the honour 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 16th instant, at 3 o'clock.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. DRUMMOND, 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 Gilbert John Elliott Murray-Kynnynmond, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, etc., etc., Governor General of Canada, being seated 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 with their Speaker,

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 :

In meeting you for the first time since entering upon my duties, as the representative of Her Majesty in this Dominion, it affords me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the large degree of prosperity which the people of Canada at present enjoy, as evidenced by the expansion of trade and commerce, the flourishing condition of the public revenues and the increased number of immigrants who have become permanent settlers amongst us. To these evidences may be added another which is even more gratifying, the almost total cessation of the considerable exodus of our population which at one time was a regrettable feature of our affairs.

The negotiations which were set on foot during the recess between Her Majesty’s Government and that of the United States in reference to the settlement of certain questions in dispute between Canada and the latter country were, I grieve to say, greatly delayed by the illness and subsequent death of two of the most eminent members of the Commission appointed for that purpose. Considerable progress had been made on several of the subjects submitted, but a serious disagreement arose between Her Majesty’s Commissioners and the Commissioners of the United States on the question of the delimitation of the Boundary between Canada and Alaska ; the question was referred by the Commissioners to their respective Governments, the Commission being adjourned to the second day of August next, in the hope that, in the meantime, the difficulty might be overcome.

In compliance with the Act passed last session a Plebiscite was held on the question of prohibition ; the official figures of the vote will be placed before you.

I observe with pleasure that the Mother Country, Canada and other British possessions have recently adopted a Penny Postage letter rate. The satisfaction with which this action has been received by the Canadian people is a further proof of the general desire existing amongst our people for closer relations with the Mother Country and the rest of the Empire.

I am also glad to be able to state that the satisfactory condition of the finances of the country permitted a reduction, on the first of January last, of the Canadian domestic letter rate, from three to two cents, and although such reduction involves a temporary loss of revenue, it is nevertheless confidently expected that the cheapened rate will prove of such service in the promotion of trade and in the general interchange of correspondence that, within a reasonable time, the revenue of the Post Office Department will be restored to its former figure.

Much information has been obtained since you last met relative to the extent and value of the deposits of gold and valuable minerals in the Yukon and other parts of

Canada. The returns from the Yukon have so far proved sufficient to meet the heavy expenditure it was found necessary to incur for the purpose of preserving law and order, and it has been thought expedient in the public interest to authorize the construction of a line of telegraph for the purpose of maintaining speedy communication with the people of those distant territories.

A Bill will be submitted to you for the better arrangement of the electoral districts throughout the Dominion, as also several other measures of less importance.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The public accounts will be laid before you, and also the estimates for the coming year. They have been prepared with a due regard to efficiency and economy, and the responsibilities arising from the rapid progress of the country.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I am confident that the important subjects I have mentioned to you will receive your serious consideration, and that it will be your earnest endeavour to promote the public interests and prosperity of Canada.

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

The Honourable Mr. Speaker reported to the Senate that the Clerk had received several Certificates from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and the same were then read by the Clerk.

Ordered, That the same be placed upon the Journal, and they are as follows :—

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CROWN IN CHANCERY, CANADA,
OTTAWA, 28th June, 1898.

This is to certify That His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to summon to the Senate, by Letters Patent, under the Great Seal, bearing date the twenty-seventh day of the month of June, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight (1898), Joseph Arthur Paquet, Esquire, of the City of Quebec, for the Electoral Division of La Salle, in the Province of Quebec, *vice* Honourable Pierre Antoine De Blois, deceased.

SAML. E. ST. O. CHAPLEAU,
Clerk of the Crown in Chancery for Canada.

To EDOUARD J. LANGEVIN, Esquire,
Clerk of the Senate.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CROWN IN CHANCERY, CANADA,
OTTAWA, 26th November, 1898.

This is to certify that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to summon to the Senate, by Letters Patent, under the Great Seal, bearing date the nineteenth day of the month of November, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight (1898), John Yeo, Esquire, of Port Hill, in the Province of Prince Edward Island, for the Province of Prince Edward Island, *vice* Honourable Joseph Octave Arsenault, deceased.

SAML. E. ST. O. CHAPLEAU,
Clerk of the Crown in Chancery for Canada.

To EDOUARD J. LANGEVIN, Esquire,
Clerk of the Senate.