

The Honourable the Speaker then acquainted the Senate that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table the Certificate of one of the Commissioners setting forth that the Honourable Mr. Arsenault, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867.

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

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

OTTAWA, 15th April, 1895.

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 18th inst., at Three o'clock, P.M.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR GORDON,
Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable

The Speaker of the Senate, &c., &c.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen; Viscount Formartine, Baron Haddo, Methlic, Tarves and Kellie, in the Peerage of Scotland; Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baronet of Nova Scotia, &c., &c., 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 :

It is with much satisfaction that I again have recourse to your advice and assistance in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion.

By the sudden and lamented death of the late Right Honourable Sir John Thompson, Canada has sustained a grievous loss. The deep and heartfelt sympathy expressed by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the manifestations of sorrow with which the distressing intelligence was received throughout the Empire, as well as tokens of esteem and respect everywhere paid to the memory of the deceased statesman, have been gratefully appreciated by the people of Canada.

Satisfactory assurances having been received from Her Majesty's Government respecting the interpretation of certain clauses in the Treaty of Commerce with France, ratifications will be exchanged as soon as the necessary legislation has been passed.

The recent action of the Imperial Parliament enabling the various Australasian Governments to enter into preferential trade relations with the other self-governing Colonies of the Empire, affords gratifying proof that the suggestions of the Colonial Conference are being favourably entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

In conformity with a recent judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to the effect that the dissentient minority of the people of Manitoba have a constitutional right of appeal to the Governor General in Council against certain Acts passed by the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba in relation to the subject of education, I have heard in Council the appeal, and my decision thereon has been communicated to the Legislature of the said Province. The papers on the subject will be laid before you.

The depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has made itself felt in Canada, but fortunately to a less degree than in most other countries. Although this has not resulted in any considerable decrease in the volume of our foreign trade, yet, owing to low prices and recent reductions in, and removal of, taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from Customs and Excise. In order to produce equilibrium between revenue and expenditure for the coming year, it will be necessary to observe the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.

During the period that has elapsed since the last Session of Parliament, I have had an opportunity of visiting many portions of the Dominion, including the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the North-west Territories and British Columbia. Throughout these tours I have been impressed and gratified by manifestations of an abounding loyalty and public spirit; and notwithstanding the phase of trade depression already referred to, I observed everywhere unmistakable signs of that confident hopefulness in the future, based on a thorough belief in the greatness of the resources of Canada, which is one of the characteristics of her people, and which furnishes a good augury and pledge of further development and progress.

The Government of Newfoundland having intimated its desire to renew negotiations looking to the admission of that colony into the Dominion of Canada, a sub-committee of my advisers have recently met in conference a delegation from the Island Government and discussed with them the terms of union. It will be a subject of general congratulation if the negotiations now pending result in the incorporation of Her Majesty's oldest colonial possession into the Canadian Confederation.

Measures relating to bankruptcy and insolvency, and to joint stock companies will be laid before you. You will also be asked to consider certain amendments to the Insurance Act, to the Act respecting Dominion Notes, to the Dominion Lands Act, to the Indian Act, to the North-west Territories Representation Act, as also a Bill respecting the land subsidy of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I have directed that the accounts of the past year shall be laid before you. The Estimates for the ensuing year will also be presented. They have been framed with every regard to economy compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I now leave you to the discharge of the important duties devolving upon you with an earnest prayer that being guided by the spirit of wisdom and patriotism your deliberations may, under the divine blessing, conduce to the unity and well-being of Canada.

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

The Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, presented to the Senate a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways." The said Bill was read for the first time.