

Friday, 11th March, 1904.

The Members convened were:—

The Honourable LAWRENCE GEOFFREY POWER, Speaker.

The Honourable Messieurs

Baker,	Dobson,	King,	Pelletier
Béique,	Domville,	Lovitt,	(Sir Alphonse),
Bernier,	Drummond,	Mackay (Alma),	Perley,
Bolduc,	Edwards,	McGregor,	Poirier,
Bowell,	Ferguson,	McHugh,	Robertson,
(Sir Mackenzie),	Fiset,	McLaren,	Scott,
Casgrain	Gibson,	McMillan,	Tessier,
(de Lanaudière),	Godbout,	McSweeney,	Thompson,
Casgrain (Windsor),	Jones,	Miller,	Watson,
Church,	Kerr (Cobourg),	Mitchell,	Yeo,
Cloran,	Kerr (Toronto),	Owens,	Young.
Dever,			

PRAYERS.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

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

OTTAWA, 10th March, 1904.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber, to open the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, on Friday, the 11th instant, at Three o'clock, P.M.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. S. MAUDE, Major,  
*Governor General's Secretary.*

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the Senate.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.  
After some time the Senate was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, 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, &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,

The Honourable Napoleon Antoine Belcourt, said:—

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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.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate then said:—

MR. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to assure you that 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:*

In again meeting you in Parliament, it is our first duty to express our heartfelt thanks to a beneficent Providence for the abundant harvest with which the country has been favoured during the past year, and for the general prosperity that prevails in all parts of the Dominion.

It is very gratifying to note that the yearly increasing trade of Canada which has been so marked a feature of the past six years, gives no indication of any abatement, while the number of settlers seeking homes in Manitoba and the Territories is without a parallel in the history of the country. These two very important facts lead irresistibly to the conclusion that long before the Transcontinental Railway, authorized by Parliament at its last session, can possibly be completed, its urgent necessity as a medium for carrying the products of the West to our own Atlantic ports will have become apparent independently of the many benefits that will follow from the opening up for colonization and for various enterprises of the northern parts of Quebec and Ontario.

The agreement made with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company regarding a new transcontinental railway, contained certain stipulations which in effect required the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada to become a party to that agreement and to assume heavy obligations in respect thereof.

Further consideration of the agreement by the representatives of the Grand Trunk Railway Company and my Government has resulted in showing the desirability of certain amendments to the contract which, having been approved by my Government and subsequently by the Board of Directors and the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, will be submitted to you for ratification.

The sum of \$5,000,000 in cash has been deposited in the Bank of Montreal in accordance with the provisions contained in the original and supplemental agreements with the company.

A Militia Bill will be introduced containing several important amendments to the present law rendered necessary by the growth of the Force and calculated to promote its efficiency.

A copy of the award defining the boundary between the Dominion and Alaska, and other papers connected with the controversy, will be laid before you.

In view of the widely extended settlements now forming in the Territories, it will become necessary to increase the strength of the North-west Mounted Police Force, and authority will be asked for that purpose.

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*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you. I am glad to say that the revenue will exceed the expenditure, leaving a balance to be applied in reduction of the public debt.

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:*

After the long protracted session of the last year, when so many important matters were dealt with, it is not probable that your duties will involve your being detained on the present occasion for any lengthened period. I commend, however, to your best consideration the subjects to which I have referred and I invoke the Divine Blessing on your deliberations.

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

The Honourable Mr. Scott, Secretary of State, presented to the Senate a Bill intitled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read a first time.

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

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Scott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Yeo, it was

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration by the Senate on Monday, the 14th instant.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Scott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Yeo, it was

Ordered, That all the Senators present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber, when and as often as they please.

Then, on motion of the Honourable Mr. Scott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Yeo,

The Senate adjourned until Monday next at Three o'clock in the afternoon.