

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:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OTTAWA, 12th March, 1894.

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 15th instant, at 3 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.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.
After some time the House 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:

In the Queen's name I greet you, for the first time since assuming the high functions intrusted to me by Her Majesty; and it is with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction that I thus meet you assembled for the labours of another session of Parliament.

This feeling of satisfaction is enhanced by the opportunities which I have already enjoyed of visiting, and in my official capacity renewing acquaintance with, several of the chief centres of the enterprise and activity of this Dominion; nor need I refrain from assuring you that I have been deeply impressed by the heartiness of the reception accorded to me as Her Majesty's Viceroy and Representative, a reception which has once more manifested the loyalty, the cordiality and the public spirit of the Canadian people.

My predecessor was able to express gratification to you last year, on an increase in trade and on the continued progress of the Dominion. It is gratifying to me to observe that the expectation which was then formed—that the volume of trade during the then current year would exceed that of any year in the history of the Dominion—has been fully realized and that Canada's progress continues, with every mark of stability and permanence.

It may be observed with satisfaction that a large proportion of this increase is shown to have been due to an extension of our commerce with Great Britain.

It is a cause of thankfulness that our people have been spared in a very great degree from the sufferings which have visited the populations of some other countries during many months past, and that while the commercial depression prevailing abroad could not but affect the activity of business in the Dominion, we have been free from any extensive financial disaster or widespread distress.

The revenues of the year have been ample for the services which you provided for, and have met the expectations on which the appropriations of last year were based.

The peaceful conclusion, by the award of the arbitrators at Paris, of the controversy which had prevailed so long, with respect to the Seal Fisheries in the Pacific Ocean and the rights of British subjects in Behring Sea, has removed the only source of contention which existed between Great Britain and the United States with regard to Canada. There is every reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government will obtain redress for those Canadian subjects of Her Majesty who were deprived of their property and liberty without just cause while the controversy was in progress.

At an early date a measure will be laid before you having for its object a revision of the Duties of Customs with a view to meet the changes which time has effected in business operations of all kinds throughout the Dominion. While my Ministers do not propose to change the principles on which the existing enactments on this subject are based, the amendments which will be offered for your consideration are designed to simplify the operation of the tariff and to lessen, as far as can be done, consistently with those principles and with the requirements of the Treasury, the imposts which are now in force.

There will also be laid before you a measure on the subject of Bankruptcy and Insolvency which will, it is hoped, make more adequate provision than now exists on that subject for the increasing trade and commerce of the country and for the greatly expanded trade between the several provinces of Canada.

Measures will also be submitted to you making more effective provisions for our lines of steam communication on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, for improving the law with regard to Dominion Lands and with regard to the management of Indian Affairs; also a Bill respecting Joint Stock Companies, another with respect to the Fisheries, and several less important measures which experience has suggested with regard to various matters under your control.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Public Accounts will be submitted to you at an early date and also the Estimates of the expenditure which has been considered necessary for the ensuing year.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

While it is hoped that the public measures which will demand your attention will not be very numerous some of them will be of great weight and importance, and it is my earnest hope and prayer that the care and zeal which you will apply to the deliberations of the Session may be aided by the abundant blessing of the Almighty.

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

The Honourable Mr. Bowell, Minister of Trade and Commerce, 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. Bowell, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Angers, it was

Ordered, That the House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, on Monday next.