

Whereupon the Honourable Mr. King came to the Table and took and subscribed the Oath prescribed by Law, which was administered by Edouard Joseph Langevin, Esquire, one of the Commissioners appointed for that purpose, and took his seat accordingly.

The Honourable the Speaker then acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table the Certificate of one of the Commissioners setting forth that the Honourable Mr. King, 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, 19th March, 1897.

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 25th inst., at 3 o'clock.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN SINCLAIR,

Acting 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 ; Baron of Nova Scotia ; Knight Grand Cross of Our 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,

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 welcoming you on your attendance at the Second Session of the present Parliament, I desire to express the gratification I feel at the evidence which prevail throughout the Dominion, of the loyalty and affection entertained by the Canadian people for Her Majesty the Queen and of the desire to join with their fellow-subjects in all parts of the Empire in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in a manner worthy the joyous event. And I am pleased to be able also to announce that in accordance with an invitation from the Imperial Government, arrangements are being made for an effective representation of the Dominion in connection with the commemoration of this historic occasion at the Capital of the Empire.

Immediately after the last Session, the Government of Manitoba was invited to hold a Conference with my Ministers on the subject of the grievances arising out of the Act of that Province relating to Education passed in the year 1890. In response to that

invitation, three members of the Manitoba Government came to Ottawa, and after many and protracted discussions, a settlement was reached between the two Governments, which was the best arrangement obtainable under the existing conditions of this disturbing question. I confidently hope that this settlement will put an end to the agitation which has marred the harmony and impeded the development of our country, and will prove the beginning of a new era to be characterized by generous treatment of one another, mutual concessions and reciprocal good-will.

A measure will be submitted to you for the revision of the tariff, which it is believed will provide the necessary revenue, and, while having due regard to industrial interests, will make our fiscal system more satisfactory to the masses of the people.

You will be asked to give your support to a Bill abolishing the present expensive and unsatisfactory Franchise Act and adopting, for the election of Members of the House of Commons, the Franchises of the several Provinces.

My Government has determined that the advantages to accrue, both to our Western producers and the business interests of the whole Dominion from the completion of the works for the enlargement of the St. Lawrence Canals, should no longer be deferred and has, subject to the approval of Parliament, taken the initial steps for a vigorous prosecution of those works and for the perfecting of the canal system by the close of the year 1898.

I have much satisfaction in informing you that arrangements have been concluded which, if you approve, will enable the Intercolonial Railway system to reach Montreal, and thus share in the large traffic centering in that city. The many advantages which will flow from this extension of that railway are apparent, and I have no doubt you will gladly approve of the proposal.

Appreciating the difficulties encountered by our farmers in placing their perishable food products on the English markets in good condition, my Government has arranged a complete system of cold storage accommodation at creameries, on railways, at ports and on steamers, by which these products can be preserved at the desired temperature during the whole journey from the point of production to Great Britain. The contracts made for this purpose will be laid before you.

It is desirable that the mind of the people of Canada should be clearly ascertained on the subject of prohibition, and a measure enabling the electors to vote upon the question will be submitted for your approval.

The Behring Sea Claims Convention constituted during the past year to adjust the damages payable to the owners of the British Sealing vessels, seized by the cruisers of the United States on the high seas, has completed taking the evidence submitted to it by the respective Governments of Her Majesty and the United States, and has adjourned for a time to hear the arguments thereon on behalf of both Governments. I indulge the hope that a final and satisfactory adjudication of these long delayed claims will now speedily be reached.

The calamity which has befallen our fellow-subjects in India has evoked a widespread sympathy in this country. The generous manner in which the appeal for practical tokens of this feeling has been responded to, has elicited warm assurances of grateful acknowledgment from the Government of India which have also been specially and heartily endorsed by the Imperial authorities.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you.

The estimates of the coming year will be presented at an early day. They have been framed with every regard for economy consistent with the efficiency of the public service. I regret that the receipts from ordinary sources continue to be inadequate to meet the charges against the Consolidated Revenue. The proposed revision of the Tariff and the application of strict economy in the administration of the Government will, I trust, restore the equilibrium between income and expenditure.

Honourable Gentl men of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

Among the Bills which have been prepared and will be submitted for your approval, are Bills amending the Superannuation Act and the Civil Service Act.

These and other measures, I commend to your earnest consideration and express the hope that your deliberations under the Divine guidance will tend to increase the happiness and prosperity of every class in the Dominion.

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 intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read a 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. Scott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Cox, it was

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

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Scott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Cox, 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 this House, when and as often as they please.

The Honourable Mr. Scott moved, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Cox, That when the Senate adjourns this day, it do stand adjourned until Monday, at eight o'clock in the evening.

The question of concurrence being put thereon, the same was resolved in the affirmative, and

Ordered accordingly.

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

The Senate adjourned until Monday next, at eight o'clock in the evening.