

do command you, that all difficulties and excuses whatsoever laying aside, you be and appear for the purpose aforesaid, in the Senate of Our said Dominion, at all times whensoever and wheresoever Our Parliament may be in Our said Dominion convoked and holden : and this you are in no wise to omit.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed. WITNESS, Our Right Trusty and Right Well-Beloved Cousin and Councillor, 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, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, in Our Dominion of Canada, this Twenty-second day of January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-eight, and in the Sixty-first Year of Our Reign.

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

Whereupon the Honourable Mr. Dandurand 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. Dandurand, 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, 2nd February, 1898.

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 3rd instant, at 3 o'clock.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

DAVID ERSKINE,

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, 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 :

I have observed with great pleasure the remarkable advance in the political importance and material prosperity of Canada during the year which has just closed.

The loan recently effected has shown that the credit of Canada has never stood so high in European markets, and affords reasonable ground for expecting that the burthens of the people will, in the near future, be materially reduced by the substitution of a much lower rate of interest on our indebtedness than that which now exists.

I congratulate you upon the exceedingly cordial reception accorded to the representatives of Canada at the Jubilee Ceremonials, and also upon the warm appreciation manifested everywhere throughout the Mother Country in reference to the conduct of Canada in materially reducing the rate of duty upon goods imported from the United Kingdom into the Dominion.

The action of the Imperial Government in denouncing the treaties with Germany and Belgium, also affords most satisfactory evidence of their desire to facilitate your efforts to promote the closest possible commercial relations between Canada and the remainder of the Empire, and will, I trust, contribute materially to the development of Imperial trade.

The extraordinary gold discoveries recently made upon the Yukon and its tributaries, appear likely to result in an enormous influx of people into that region, and have compelled the Government to take prompt action for the preservation of law and order in that distant and almost inaccessible locality ; measures will be laid before you for that purpose.

A contract has been entered into, subject to your approval, for the completion at the earliest possible moment of a system of rail and river communication through Canadian territory with the Klondike and principal gold fields, which it is expected will secure to Canada the larger portion of the lucrative traffic of that country.

The bountiful harvest with which we have been favoured by a benevolent Providence has contributed greatly to the increase of our prosperity, and I am glad to note that the trade and commerce of the Dominion, and more especially the amount and values of her principal exports, have increased greatly during the past eighteen months, and there is good reason to believe that this improvement may be maintained if not augmented, during the remainder of the present year.

I observe with pleasure that certain Government contracts recently let contain provisions calculated to suppress the evils of the sweating system.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

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

The Estimates for the succeeding year will likewise be placed upon the Table at an early date.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

Measures will be submitted to you respecting Superannuation, the repeal of the present Franchise Act, and a plebiscite on the question of Prohibition.

These and other measures I commend to your earnest consideration, invoking the Divine blessings upon the important labours on which you are again entering.

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. Vidal, 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. Vidal, 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. Vidal,

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. Mills,

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