
At Our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, in Our Dominion of Canada, this Fourteenth day of November, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven, and in the Second Year of Our Reign.

By Command,

JAMES G. FOLEY,
*Clerk of the Crown in Chancery,
Canada.*

Whereupon the Honourable Mr. Taylor came to the Table and took and subscribed the oath prescribed by law, which was administered by Samuel Edmour St. Onge Chapleau, Esquire, a Commissioner appointed for that purpose; and took his seat accordingly.

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. Taylor, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

His Royal Highness the Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Dominion 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 that,—“It is His Royal Highness’ pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.”

Who being come, with their Speaker,
The Honourable Mr. Sproule said:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

The House of Commons has elected me 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, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duties to their King and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Royal Highness’ person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Royal Highness the most favourable consideration.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate then said:—

Mr. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Royal Highness the Governor General to declare to you that he fully confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to His Majesty’s Person and Government; and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you, that the Commons shall have ready access to His Royal Highness upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Royal Highness the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session with the following Gracious Speech to both Houses:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

It is with much satisfaction that I meet, for the first time, the Parliament of Canada, and avail myself of your advice and assistance in the fulfilment of the important charge which has been entrusted to me by His Majesty the King. I can assure you that I esteem it a privilege to be called upon to administer the affairs of this prosperous and growing Dominion, and to associate myself with you in the important duties which you are about to approach.

It affords me great pleasure to congratulate you upon the continued and increasing prosperity of the country. Our trade, both with British and with foreign countries, is rapidly expanding, and there is every prospect that its volume in the present year will be largely in excess of that attained at any time in the past.

Although there has been some damage to the crops in certain districts, the harvest has on the whole been abundant, and it is believed that the returns to the husbandman will exceed those secured in any previous year.

The results of the census taken during the present year will be laid before you, so far as they have been tabulated. While the increase in population has not fulfilled all the sanguine expectations that had been formed, yet it has been substantial and encouraging.

You will be pleased to learn that the revenues for the current fiscal year have, up to the present, largely exceeded those during any similar period in the past, with every prospect that this increase will be maintained.

The advantages that would result from a wider exchange of products between the various countries of the Empire are undoubted, in view of the wonderful variety and extent of those productions, and negotiations have been opened for improved trade arrangements with the British West Indies and British Guiana, which should prove advantageous to those colonies as well as to this Dominion.

The importance of providing our country with better highways is manifest. A Bill will be introduced for the purpose of enabling the Dominion to co-operate with the Provinces in the accomplishment of this desirable object.

It is essential to recognize that, in a country possessing so great an area of fertile land as that with which this Dominion is happily endowed, the great basic industry is agriculture. My advisers are convinced that the time has come when greater aid and encouragement should be given to those who are engaged in the cultivation of the land. To this end, a measure will be introduced under which it is hoped that there may be co-operation between the Dominion and the various Provinces, for the purpose of assisting and encouraging our farmers to secure the best results in production, and at the same time preserve the fertility of the soil.

A measure will be introduced revising and consolidating the Acts relating to the inspection of grain and providing the means by which the Government can secure, through a commission, the control and operation of the terminal elevators upon the Great Lakes.

A Bill will be introduced to establish a permanent Tariff Commission, whose duty it shall be to ascertain, by investigation and inquiry, such information as will furnish a more stable and satisfactory basis for tariff legislation than has heretofore been available.

Bills will also be laid before you with respect to the Department of External Affairs, the Archives and other subjects.

The selection of the best route for the Hudson Bay Railway is engaging the attention of my advisers, and an announcement will be made to you of the result of their inquiry.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

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

The balance of the estimates for the current fiscal year, as well as the estimates for the coming year, will be submitted for your approval at an early date.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:**Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I commend the subjects, which I have mentioned, to your best consideration, and I trust that your deliberations, under the blessing of Divine Providence, may tend to the welfare and good government of this Dominion.

His Royal Highness was pleased to retire and the House of Commons withdrew.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

PRAYERS.

The Honourable Mr. Lougheed presented to the Senate a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read a first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of His Royal Highness' Speech had been left in his hands.

The same was then read by His Honour the Speaker.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Lougheed, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Taylor, it was

Ordered, That the Speech of His Royal Highness the Governor General be taken into consideration by the Senate on Tuesday next.

With leave of the Senate,

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Lougheed, seconded by the Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, 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.

With leave of the Senate.

The Honourable Mr. Lougheed moved, seconded by the Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

That pursuant to Rule 77, the following Senators: The Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the Honourable Messieurs Gibson, Beique, Miller, Power, Watson, Casgrain, Ross (Moosejaw) and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present Session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the Senators so nominated.

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

Ordered accordingly.

With leave of the Senate,

The Honourable Mr. Lougheed moved, seconded by the Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell,