

Thursday, 12th January, 1905.

The Senate met at quarter to three o'clock in the afternoon.

The Members convened were :—

The Honourable RAOUL DANDURAND, Speaker.

The Honourable Messieurs

Baird,	Cofley,	Jones,	Poirier,
Baker,	David,	Kerr (Cobourg),	Power,
Béique,	Davis,	Kerr (Toronto),	Robertson,
Bernier,	Dobson,	King,	Ross,
Black,	Domville,	Kirchhoffer,	Scott,
Bolduc,	Drummond	Landry,	Shehyn,
Boucherville, de	(Sir George),	Legris,	Templeman,
Bowell	Edwards,	Mackay (Alma),	Tessier,
(Sir Mackenzie).	Ellis,	McGregor,	Thibaudeau
Carling (Sir John),	Ferguson,	McHugh,	(Rigaud),
Cartwright	Fiset,	McMillan,	Thibaudeau
(Sir Richard),	Forget,	McMullen,	(de la Vallière),
Casgrain	Frost,	McSweeney,	Thompson,
(Windsor),	Fulford,	Miller,	Watson,
Casgrain	Gibson,	Mitchell,	Wilson,
(de Lanaudière),	Godbout,	Montplaisir,	Wood,
Choquette,	Hingston	Owens,	Young.
Cloran,	(Sir William)	Perley.	

PRAYERS.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Albert Henry George, Earl Grey, Viscount Howick, Baron Grey of Howick, in the County of Northumberland, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and a Baronet; 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 that.—“It is His Excellency's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.”

Who being come, with their Speaker,

The Honourable Robert Franklin Sutherland said:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The House of Commons has elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

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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 duty 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 Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable consideration.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate then said:—

MR. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency 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 Excellency 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 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 desire on this occasion to assure you how sensible I am of the great honour conferred on me by the King, in appointing me to the distinguished position of Governor General.

My pleasure in being called upon to represent His Majesty in the Dominion has been heightened by the cordial welcome I have received on all sides and from all classes.

This favoured land, with its vast resources and improving facilities for transportation, is attracting people on an ever ascending scale, not only from the United Kingdom, but also from the United States and from many other countries.

As the opportunities for settlement under the advantageous conditions which exist are better known, this Dominion will become the home of an increasing number of happy and contented people, whose character and prosperity will add strength to the great Empire of which you are so important a part.

It is gratifying to note that the trade of the Dominion, which in recent years has so steadily increased, is not diminishing, the aggregate trade for the last fiscal year being the largest on record. The revenue for the past six months is also greater than for the corresponding period of the preceding year.

On the invitation of the President of the United States, my Government has joined in the formation of an international commission composed of three representatives from each country to investigate and report upon the conditions and uses of the waters adjacent to the boundary line between the United States and Canada, and to make such recommendations for improvements and regulations as shall best subserve the interest of navigation in said waters.

The rapid growth in the population of the North-west Territories during the past two years justifies the wisdom of conferring on these Territories Provincial autonomy. A Bill for that purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

The surveys necessary for the location of the line of the National Transcontinental Canadian Railway are being vigorously prosecuted, and it is confidently believed that tenders for the construction of several sections may be invited during the coming season.

The display of Canadian products made last year at the St. Louis Exhibition proved such a marked success in attracting emigrants to the western prairies, that it is proposed to accept the invitation of the Government of Belgium to send samples of our products and manufactures, to the exhibition to be shortly held at Liège.

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*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts of the last year will be laid before you. It will be satisfactory to you to learn that the expenditure has been less than the revenue, leaving a surplus over all charges.

The estimates for the coming year will be submitted at an early date; they have been prepared with a due regard for economy consistent with the development of the resources of the Dominion.

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

I invite your best attention to the subjects I have mentioned and 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. Power, it was

Ordered, that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration by the Senate on Monday next.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Scott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Power, 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. Scott moved, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Power,

That when the Senate adjourns to-day it do stand adjourned until Monday next at Three o'clock in the afternoon.

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. Power,

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