

## Thursday, 7th November, 1867.

The Members convened were :

The Honorable *Joseph Edouard Cauchon*, Speaker.

The Honorable Messieurs—

<i>Aikins,</i>	<i>Christie,</i>	<i>Kenny,</i>	<i>Mitchell,</i>
<i>Allan,</i>	<i>Cormier,</i>	<i>Leonard,</i>	<i>Odell,</i>
<i>Anderson,</i>	<i>Crawford,</i>	<i>Leslie,</i>	<i>Olivier,</i>
<i>Armand,</i>	<i>Dickey,</i>	<i>Letellier de St. Just,</i>	<i>Ritchie,</i>
<i>Bill,</i>	<i>Duchesnay, E. H. J.,</i>	<i>Locke,</i>	<i>Robertson,</i>
<i>Blair, Fergusson,</i>	<i>Dumouchel,</i>	<i>McClelan,</i>	<i>Ryan,</i>
<i>Blake,</i>	<i>Ferguson,</i>	<i>McCrea,</i>	<i>Sanborn,</i>
<i>Bossé,</i>	<i>Ferrier,</i>	<i>McCully,</i>	<i>Seymour,</i>
<i>Botsford,</i>	<i>Foster,</i>	<i>McDonald,</i>	<i>Shaw,</i>
<i>Bourinot,</i>	<i>Guévremont,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Skead,</i>
<i>Bureau,</i>	<i>Hamilton (Inkerman),</i>	<i>Malhiot,</i>	<i>Steeves,</i>
<i>Burnham,</i>	<i>Hamilton (Kingston),</i>	<i>Matheson,</i>	<i>Tessier,</i>
<i>Campbell,</i>	<i>Hazen,</i>	<i>Miller,</i>	<i>Wilmot,</i>
<i>Chaffers,</i>	<i>Holmes,</i>	<i>Mills,</i>	<i>Wilson,</i>

### PRAYERS.

His Excellency the Right Honorable *Charles Stanley*, Viscount *Monck*, Baron *Monck* of *Ballytrammon*, in the County of *Wexford*, in the Peerage of *Ireland*, and Baron *Monck* of *Ballytrammon*, in the County of *Wexford*, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, Governor General of *Canada*, &c., &c., &c., being seated in the Chair on the Throne.

The Honorable 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,  
The Honorable *James Cockburn* said :

### MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

The House of Commons have elected me as 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 duty to their Queen 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 favorable interpretation.

The Honorable the Speaker of this House then said :—

MR. SPEAKER,

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her 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 favorable construction.

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious speech to both Houses :

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,  
Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In addressing for the first time the Parliamentary Representatives of the Dominion of *Canada*, I desire to give expression to my own deep feeling of gratification that it has been my high privilege to occupy an official position which has made it my duty to assist at every step taken in the creation of this Great Confederation.

I congratulate you on the Legislative sanction which has been given by the Imperial Parliament to the Act of Union, under the provisions of which we are now assembled, and which has laid the foundation of a new Nationality that I trust and believe will, ere long, extend its bounds from the *Atlantic* to the *Pacific* Ocean.

In the discussions which preceded the introduction of this measure in the Imperial Parliament, between the Members of Her Majesty's Government on the one side, and the Delegates who represented the Provinces now united on the other,—it was apparent to all those who took part in those conferences, that, while Her Majesty's Ministers considered and pressed the principle of Union as a subject of great Imperial interest, they allowed the Provincial Representatives every freedom in arranging the mode in which that principle should be applied.

In a similar spirit of respect for your privileges, as a free and self-governing people, the Act of Union, as adopted by the Imperial Parliament, imposes the duty and confers upon you the right of reducing to practice the system of Government, which it has called into existence, of consolidating its institutions, harmonizing its administrative details, and of making such legislative provisions as will secure to a constitution, in some respects novel, a full, fair, and unprejudiced trial.

With the design of effecting these objects, measures will be laid before you for the amendment and assimilation of the laws now existing in the several Provinces relating to Currency, Customs, Excise, and Revenue generally,—for the adoption of a uniform Postal System,—for the proper management and maintenance of the Public Works and Properties of the Dominion,—for the adoption of a well considered scheme of Militia Organization and Defence, for the proper administration of Indian affairs,—for the introduction of uniform Laws respecting Patents of Invention and Discovery,—the naturalization of Aliens,—and the assimilation of the Criminal Law, and the Laws relating to Bankruptcy and Insolvency.

A measure will also be submitted to you, for the performance of the duty imposed upon *Canada*, under the terms of the Union Act, of immediately constructing the Inter-colonial Railway.

This great work will add a practical and physical connection to the legislative bond which now unites the Provinces comprising the Dominion, and the liberality with which the guarantee for the cost of its construction was given by the Imperial Parliament is a new proof of the hearty interest felt by the British people in your prosperity.

Your consideration will also be invited to the important subject of Western Territorial extension, and your attention will be called to the best means for the protection and development of our Fisheries and Marine Interests.

You will also be asked to consider measures defining the privileges of Parliament and for the establishment of uniform laws relating to Elections, and the trial of Controverted Elections.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—*

The circumstances under which the Act of Union came into operation, rendered it

impossible to obtain the assent of the Legislature to the expenditure necessary for carrying on the ordinary business of the Government.

The expenditure since the first of July has therefore been incurred on the responsibility of Ministers of the Crown.

The details of that expenditure will be laid before you, and submitted for your sanction.

I have directed that the estimates for the current and succeeding Financial Year shall be laid before you. You will find that they have been framed with all the attention to economy which is compatible with the maintenance of efficiency in the different branches of the public service.

*Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,—*

The general organization and efficiency of the Volunteers and Militia have been greatly improved within the last Year, and the whole Volunteer Force of *Ontario* and *Quebec* is already, by the liberality of the Imperial Government, armed with the Breech-loading Rifle.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the abundant harvest with which it has pleased Providence to bless you, and on the general prosperity of the Dominion.

Your new nationality enters on its course backed by the moral support—the material aid—and the most ardent good wishes of the Mother Country. Within your own borders peace, security and prosperity prevail, and I fervently pray that your aspirations may be directed to such high and patriotic objects, and that you may be endowed with such a spirit of moderation and wisdom as will cause you to render the great work of Union which has been achieved, a blessing to yourselves and your posterity, and a fresh starting point in the moral, political and material advancement of the people of *Canada*.

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

The Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, presented to the Senate a Bill entitled “An Act relating to Railways.”

The said Bill was read for the first time *pro forma*.

The Honorable the Speaker reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, and The same was then read by the Clerk.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Fergusson Blair*, it was

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

*Ordered*, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be printed in both languages for the use of Members.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Fergusson Blair*, it was

*Ordered*, That all the Members present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider of the Orders and Customs of this House, and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in this House when and as often as they please.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Fergusson Blair*, it was

*Ordered*, That a Select Committee, composed of the Honorable Messieurs *Fergusson Blair*, *McCully*, *Botsford*, *Christie*, *Tessier*, *Sanborn* and the mover, be appointed to frame Rules, Orders and Regulations for the guidance and government of this House, and of the several Officers and Servants connected therewith.