Thursday, October 23rd, 1873.

Thursday the twenty-third day of the month of October, in the thirty-seventh year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen Defender of the Faith, being the Second Session of the Second Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, as continued by prorogation to this day.

The Members in attendance in the Senate Chamber in the City of Ottawa, were:

The Honorable PIERRE JOSEPH OLIVIER CHAUVEAU, Speaker,

The Honorable Messieurs

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His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir Frederick Temple, Earl of Dufferin, Viscount and Baron Clandeboyce of Clandeboys, in the County Down, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baron Dufferin and Clandeboyne of Ballykeely and Killarney in the County Down, in the Peerage of Ireland; and a Baronet, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, and Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same, 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, with their Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open the Session by a gracious speech to both Houses.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

In accordance with the intimation given by me at the close of last Session, I have caused Parliament to be summoned at the earliest moment after the receipt of the Report of the Commissioners appointed by me to enquire into certain matters connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The evidence obtained under the Commission deserves careful consideration. The Report will be laid before Parliament, and it will be for you then to determine whether it can be of any assistance to you.

A Bill for the Consolidation and Amendment of the Laws in force in the several Provinces relating to the representation of the People in Parliament will again be submitted to you. By the postponement of this measure from last Session, you will have the advantage of including in its provisions the Province of Prince Edward Island, now happily united to Canada.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to whom a Royal Charter was granted, have, I regret to say, been unable to make the financial arrangements necessary for the construction of that great undertaking. They have therefore executed a surrender of their Charter, which has been accepted by me.

You will, I trust, feel yourselves called upon to take steps to secure the early commencement and vigorous prosecution of the construction of that Railway, and thus to carry out, in good faith, the arrangement made with the Province of British Columbia.

A measure for this purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

The extension of the bounds of the Dominion has caused a corresponding increase in the work of administration, and seems to call for additional assistance in Parliament as well as in Executive Government. A Bill on this subject will be laid before you.

Your attention will be invited to the consideration of a Bill for the establishment of a General Court of Appeal.

Measures relating to our navigable waters and to the Inspection Laws, will be laid before you; as also, a Bill for the establishment of a Dominion Board of Agriculture.

The subject of the law relating to insolvency will necessarily engage your attention.

The efforts made by the several Provinces, as well as by the Dominion, to encourage immigration, have met with success, and a large number of valuable settlers has been added to our population. I do not doubt that you will continue your liberal aid to this important object.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—

I have directed that the accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you, the prosperous condition of our finances continues, and the revenue has been sufficient to meet all charges upon it.

The estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with due regard to economy as well as to the efficiency of the public service; and I trust that the supplies, which are necessary, will be granted without inconvenience to the people.
Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—

Your best attention will, I doubt not, be devoted to the important interests committed to your charge, and I am confident that your deliberations will redound to the advantage and prosperity of the country.

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

PRAYERS:

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House Returns from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, setting forth that the following gentlemen had been summoned to the Senate:—

The Honorable George Alexander, of the Town of Woodstock, in the Province of Ontario; Joseph Hyncllthe Bellerose, Esquire, of St. Vincent de Paul, in the Province of Quebec; the Honorable Donald Montgomery, of the Province of Prince Edward Island; the Honorable Robert Poore Haythorne, of the Province of Prince Edward Island; the Honorable Thomas Heath Human, of the Province of Prince Edward Island; George William Howland, Esquire, of the Province of Prince Edward Island.

The Honorable the Speaker informed the House that there was a Member without ready to be introduced.

When the Honorable George Alexander was introduced between the Honorable Messieurs Hamilton (Kingston), and Dickey,

The Honorable Mr. Alexander presented Her Majesty's Writ, summoning him to the Senate.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and

Ordered to be put upon the Journal, and it is as follows:—

CANADA.

[Seal]

DUFFERIN.

Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

To Our Trusty and Well Beloved the Honorable George Alexander, of Our Province of Ontario, in Our Dominion of Canada.

GREETING:—

Know Ye, that as well for the especial trust and confidence We have manifested in you, as for the purpose of obtaining your advice and assistance in all weighty and arduous affairs which may the State and Defence of our Dominion of Canada, concern, We have thought fit to summon you to the Senate of Our said Dominion, and We do command you, the said Honorable George Alexander, that all difficulties and excuses whatsoever, laying aside, you be and appear for the purposes aforesaid, in the Senate of Our said Dominion, at all times whenever and wheresoever Our Parliament may be in Our said Dominion convoked and holden; and this you are in nowise 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