

the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law, but to-morrow, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the causes of calling this Parliament will be declared.

Sir *William Buell Richards*, Knight, Deputy Governor, was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

Then, on motion of the Honorable Mr. *Scott*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Simpson*,

The House adjourned until to-morrow, at half past two o'clock in the afternoon.

Friday, 8th February, 1878.

The Members convened were

The Honorable *DAVID CHRISTIE*, Speaker.

The Honorable Messieurs

<i>Alexander,</i>	<i>Cormier,</i>	<i>Hope,</i>	<i>Pozer,</i>
<i>Allan,</i>	<i>Dever,</i>	<i>Kaulbach,</i>	<i>Read,</i>
<i>Armand,</i>	<i>Dickey,</i>	<i>Lewin,</i>	<i>Scott,</i>
<i>Baillargeon,</i>	<i>Dumouchel,</i>	<i>McDonald,</i>	<i>Seymour,</i>
<i>Bellerose,</i>	<i>Fabre,</i>	<i>McMaster,</i>	<i>Simpson,</i>
<i>Benson,</i>	<i>Ferguson,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Skead,</i>
<i>Botsford,</i>	<i>Ferrier,</i>	<i>Miller,</i>	<i>Sutherland,</i>
<i>Bourinot,</i>	<i>Girard,</i>	<i>Montgomery,</i>	<i>Thibaudeau,</i>
<i>Bureau,</i>	<i>Glasier,</i>	<i>Northup,</i>	<i>Trudel,</i>
<i>Campbell,</i>	<i>Guevremont,</i>	<i>Pâquet,</i>	<i>Vidal,</i>
<i>Chaffers,</i>	<i>Hamilton (Kingston),</i>	<i>Pelletier,</i>	<i>Wark,</i>
<i>Chapais,</i>	<i>Haviland,</i>	<i>Penny,</i>	<i>Wilmot.</i>
<i>Cochrane,</i>	<i>Haythorne,</i>		

PRAYERS :

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and is as follows :—

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Ottawa, 7th February, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber, to formally open the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Friday, the 8th instant, at three o'clock.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

E. G. P. LITTLETON,
Governor General's Secretary.

The Honorable
The Speaker of the Senate.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir *Frederic Temple*, Earl of *Dufferin*, Viscount and Baron *Clandeboye*, of *Clandeboye*, in the County *Down*, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron *Dufferin* and *Clandeboye*, of *Ballyleidy* and *Killeleagh*, in the County *Down*, in the Peerage of *Ireland*, and a Baronet, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of *Saint Patrick*, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of *Saint Michael* and *Saint George*, and Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &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 *Timothy Warren Anglin*, 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 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.

The Honorable the Speaker of this House then said :

MR SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to assure you that 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 again summoning you for the despatch of business, I am glad to be able to say that nothing beyond the ordinary business of the country requires your attendance.

It afforded me great pleasure to have had an opportunity, before my departure from *Canada*, of visiting the Province of *Manitoba* and a portion of the outside Territories, which visit I accomplished during last Autumn. I have now had the advantage of visiting every Province in the Dominion during the term of my government of *Canada*.

I am happy to be able to say that the arbitration on the Fishery claims, under the terms of the *Washington Treaty*, has been concluded. An award has been made by the Commission of \$5,500,000 as compensation to *Canada* and *Newfoundland* for the use of their Fisheries during the term of the present Treaty. This amount is much less than that claimed by my Government, but having assented to the creation of the tribunal for the determination of their value, we are bound loyally to assent to the decision given.

The exhibition of Canadian manufactures and products at *Sydney, New South Wales*, was successfully carried out. I trust that the result will be the opening up of a new market for Canadian goods even in so remote a region as the Australasian colonies, shipments of Canadian productions having already been made. The expenditure will slightly exceed the estimate, but I doubt not the cost to *Canada* will be amply repaid by the extension of her trade.

Preparations have been uninterruptedly carried on, during the last six months, for securing an ample but select exhibition of *Canada's* products and manufactures at the great exhibition to be held at *Paris* during the current year. A further estimate will be required to meet the expenditure. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Chairman of the British Commissioners, has assigned a most prominent place to *Canada* in one of the main Towers, where a Canadian Trophy is now being erected.

A very disastrous fire occurred in June last, in the City of *St. John*, which caused the destruction of a large portion of the City, including all the public buildings owned by the Dominion Government. My Government deemed it necessary to contribute \$20,000 to assist in relieving the immediate wants of the people who were rendered destitute by so appalling a calamity. I also sanctioned the appropriation of some public money, with which to commence the erection of new buildings for the public business, which acts you will be asked to confirm in the usual way.

During last summer my Commissioners made another Treaty with the *Blackfeet, Blood* and *Piegan* Indians, by which the Indian title is extinguished over a territory of 51,000 square miles west of Treaty No. 4, and south of Treaty No. 6. The Treaty has been made on terms nearly the same as those under Treaty No. 6, though somewhat less onerous. The entire territory west of *Lake Superior* to the *Rocky Mountains*, and from the boundary nearly to the 55th degree of North latitude, embracing about 450,000 square miles, has now been acquired by peaceful negotiation with the native tribes, who place implicit faith in the honour and justice of the British Crown.

Early in the past summer a large body of Indians, under *Sitting Bull*, from the *United States*, crossed into British territory, to escape from the *United States* troops, and have since remained on the Canadian side.

The *United States* Government made a friendly but unsuccessful attempt to induce these Indians to return to their reservations. It is to be hoped that such arrangements may yet be made as may lead to their permanent and peaceful settlement, and thus relieve *Canada* of a source of uneasiness and a heavy expenditure.

The surveys of the *Pacific* Railway have been pressed to completion during the past season. A complete instrumental survey of the route, by the valleys of the *North Thompson* and *Lower Fraser* Rivers, has been made with a view to ascertain definitely, whether that route presents more favourable features than the routes already surveyed to *Dean Inlet* and *Bute Inlet* respectively. It is believed that the additional information now obtained will enable my Government to determine which route is the most advantageous from *Tête Jaune Cache* to the sea. Full information will be laid before you at an early day, of the season's work in this and other directions.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the abundant harvest reaped in all quarters of the Dominion; and I rejoice that under this and other influences there has been some improvement in the Revenue returns, thus indicating, I trust, that the commercial depression that has so long afflicted *Canada*, in common with other countries, is passing away.

My attention has been called to some imperfections in the existing system of auditing the Public Accounts, and a measure providing for their more thorough and effective supervision will be submitted for your consideration.

The prospect of obtaining, at an early day, greater facilities for reaching the *North Western Territories* and the Province of *Manitoba*, is sure to attract a larger number of settlers every year, and as much of the prosperity of the Dominion depends on the rapid settlement of the fertile lands in these Territories, it is desirable and

necessary to facilitate such settlement as much as possible. In order to effect this, measures will be submitted for your consideration concerning the registration of titles, the enactment of a Homestead Law, and the promotion of Railway enterprise in districts not touched by the *Canada Pacific* Railway.

Your attention will be called to a measure for better securing the independence of Parliament.

Experience has shown that certain changes may advantageously be made in the departmental arrangements existing at present. A bill will be submitted to you for accomplishing this purpose without increasing the expenditure, or the number of Departments.

It is very desirable that there should be uniform legislation in all the Provinces respecting the traffic in spirituous liquors. Hitherto that trade has been regulated by Provincial laws, or laws existing before the Confederation of the Provinces, although there has been lately a conflict of authority as to the jurisdiction of the local authorities. A bill making the necessary provision will be submitted for your consideration.

Various measures found necessary for the amendment of existing laws will also be submitted for your approval.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you at an early day. They have been prepared with an anxious desire to provide for all the branches of the public service and the execution of pressing public works within the limits of the expected revenue, without increasing the burden of taxation.

I have directed that the Public Accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you.

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

The Honorable Mr. *Scott* presented to the House a Bill, intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

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. *Scott*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Pelletier*, it was

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

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Scott*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Pelletier*, it was

Ordered, That all Members present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider 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.

The following Petitions were brought up, and laid on the Table:—

By the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*,—Of the Merchants Bank of *Canada*.

By the Honorable Mr. *Miller*,—Of *Frederick W. Fishwick* and others, of the City and County of *Halifax*, in the Province of *Nova Scotia*.