

The Honorable the Speaker acquainted the House, that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table a Certificate of the Commissioner, setting forth that the Honorable *Joseph Northwood*, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the *British North America Act, 1867*.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir JOHN DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND CAMPBELL (commonly called the Marquis of *Lorne*), Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of *St. Michael* and *St. George*, 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 with their Speaker,

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 opening this, the Third Session of the present Parliament, I have to offer you my sincere congratulations on the bountiful harvest with which *Canada* has been blessed, as well as on the undoubted return of her Commercial prosperity, and the substantial development of her various industries.

During the recess my advisers thought the time opportune for making another attempt to carry out the declared preference of Parliament for the construction and operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway by means of an Incorporated Company, aided by grants of money and land, rather than by the direct action of the Government.

Three of my Ministers therefore proceeded to England for the purpose of carrying on negotiations to that end.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that their efforts were so far successful that a contract has been entered into, subject to the approval of Parliament, with men of high financial standing in *Europe*, the *United States* and *Canada*, for the speedy construction and permanent working of this great national enterprise.

The Contract and the papers connected therewith, will be submitted to you without delay, and I invoke for them your early and earnest consideration.

With this view I have summoned you before the usual period, as no action can be taken by the Contractors to prosecute the work, and no permanent arrangement for the organization of a systematic Emigration from *Europe* to the *North-West Territories* can be satisfactorily made until the policy of Parliament with respect to the Railway has been decided.

Steady progress has been made in the construction of those portions of the Railway now under contract. Two additional sections have been recently opened for traffic, one from *Winnipeg* to *Portage la Prairie*, the other from *Cross Lake* to *Kewatin*; so that there are now in all 264 miles in operation.

You will be glad to learn that the measures adopted to promote economy in the working of the Intercolonial and *Prince Edward Island* Railways have resulted in a large reduction of the difference between Revenue and Expenditure, and that the steadily increasing traffic warrants the expectation that during the current year these Railways will be self-sustaining.

I have the gratification of informing you that Her Majesty's Government has generously presented to *Canada*, for training school purposes the steam corvette *Charybdis* lately returned from service in the Chinese Seas. The correspondence on this subject will be laid before you.

I have thought it well, in consideration of the increasing duties thrown by the development of the Country upon the Civil Service, and for the more efficient organization of such service, to issue a Royal Commission to examine and report on the whole question.

The Report of the Commissioners will, I believe, be ready to be laid before you at an early day; and I ask for your consideration of such Report and of the whole subject of Civil Service Reform.

A measure for the enlargement of the boundaries of the Province of *Manitoba* will be submitted to you.

I greatly regret being obliged to state that the entire failure of the usual food supply of the Indians in the *North West*, to which I called your attention last session, has continued during the present season, and has involved the necessity of a large expenditure in order to save them for absolute starvation. Several of the Bands have, however, already applied themselves to the cultivation of their Reserves and the care of their cattle. No effort will be spared to induce the whole of the aboriginal population to betake themselves to agricultural pursuits.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The Accounts of the last, and the Estimates for the ensuing year, will be laid before you. The Estimates will, I trust, be found to have been prepared with due regard to economy and the efficiency of the Public Service.

It will be satisfactory to you to know that the existing Tariff has not only promoted the Manufactures and other products of the Country, but has so far increased the Revenues of the Dominion as to place it beyond doubt that the receipts of the current fiscal year will be in excess of the expenditures chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

Several measures of importance will be submitted to you, among them will be Bills for the winding up of Insolvent Banks and Incorporated Companies; for the amendment of the Railway Act of 1879; for the revision and consolidation of the Laws relating to Government Railways; and for the improvement, in several respects, of the Criminal Law.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that there are now good hopes of our being able to place the naturalization of German Settlers on a more satisfactory footing. A measure will be submitted, with all the papers connected with the matter, for your consideration.

Your best attention will, I am sure, be given to the subjects I have mentioned, as well as to everything that affects the well-being and good government of the Dominion.

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

The House resumed.

The Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell* presented to the House, a Bill intituled "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

On motion of the Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Aikins*, it was

*Ordered*, That the House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to-morrow.