

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 *Alexander Vidal*, 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 whensoever and wheresoever Our Parliament may be in Our said Dominion convoked and holden ; and this you are in no wise 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 Right Trusty and Well Beloved Cousin and Councillor 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 Our Most Illustrious Order of *Saint Patrick*, and Knight Commander of Our Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of *Canada*, and Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of *Prince Edward*, and Vice-Admiral of *Canada* and *Prince Edward*.

At Our Government House, in Our City of *Ottawa*, in Our Dominion of *Canada*, this fifteenth day of January, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-three, and in the Thirty-sixth year of Our Reign.

By Command,

EDOUARD J. LANGEVIN,

Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, *Canada*.

Then the Honorable Mr. *Vidal* took and subscribed the oath prescribed by Law which was administered by *Robert LeMoine*, Esquire, a Commissioner appointed for that purpose, and took his seat accordingly.

The Honorable the Speaker acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table the certificate of one of the Commissioners, setting forth that the Honorable *Alexander Vidal*, 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.

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*, and Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of *Canada*, and Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of *Prince Edward*, and Vice Admiral of *Canada* and *Prince Edward*, &c., &c., being seated in the Chair on the Throne,

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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 recognise 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 :

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate ;*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

1. In addressing for the first time the Parliament of *Canada*, I desire to express the satisfaction I feel in resorting to your advice and assistance, as well as my deep sense of my own good fortune in being permitted to associate myself with you in your labours and aspirations for the welfare of this Dominion.

I rejoice to think that my assumption of office should have taken place at a period when the prospects of the country appear so full of promise, when peace and amity prevail amongst all neighbouring nations, and when so many indications are afforded of the success with which *Canada* herself is consolidating her political unity and developing her material resources.

2. In accordance with the decision of Parliament, and to carry into effect the legislation of last Session, I have caused a Charter to be granted to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the *Pacific* Railway. The Company now formed has given assurances that this great work will be vigorously prosecuted, and a favorable state of the money market in *England* affords every hope that satisfactory arrangements may be made for the required capital. The papers and correspondence relating to this subject will be laid before you.

3. During the past year the surveys for the improvement and extension of our system of Canals, for which appropriations were made last Session, have been in active preparation; and I am glad to inform you that the plans and specifications for the enlargement of the *Welland*, and the construction of the *Baie Verte* Canals, have been completed, and that the works can now be put under contract.

The surveys for the St. Lawrence Canals will, I am assured, be finished in time to commence the works at the beginning of next year. This will insure the completion of all these great undertakings at the same period.

4. It is gratifying to know that the efforts made to encourage immigration have met with a great measure of success, and that the numbers seeking a home in *Canada* have been greatly augmented during the last year. I do not doubt your readiness to make ample provision for the steadily increasing stream of settlers that may hereafter be annually expected to add to the population, wealth and strength of the Dominion.

5. The compilation of the first Census of the Dominion approaches completion, and this would, therefore, seem a fitting time to provide for the establishment of a proper system for the accurate collection and scientific arrangement of statistical information. I commend this subject to your attention.

6. It is important that provision should be made for the consolidation and amendment of the Laws now in force in the several Provinces, relating to the representation of the people in Parliament. A measure for this purpose, and one for the trial of Controverted Elections, will be submitted for your consideration.

7. Your attention will be invited to measures for the amendment of the Laws relating to Pilots, to Salvage, and to the Trinity Houses of *Montreal* and *Quebec*, as well as for the improvement of the Laws generally affecting our Merchant Shipping.

8. Experience has shown that the duties now performed in the Offices of the Secretary of State, and the Secretary for the Provinces, may be readjusted with advantage to the public service. A Bill on the subject will be laid before you.

9. Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you relating to the Criminal Law, to Weights and Measures, and to the amendment and consolidation of the Inspection Laws.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—*

10. I have given directions that the accounts of the past, and of the first six months of the present financial year, shall be laid before you without delay. You will be gratified to learn that the finances of the Dominion are in a prosperous condition, and that there is no reason to doubt that the revenue will be sufficient to meet all contemplated charges upon it.

The Estimates for the ensuing year, which will be submitted to you, have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service, and I venture to hope that you will be of opinion that the supplies which my Government will ask you to vote, can be granted without inconvenience to the people.

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*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate ;  
Gentlemen of The House of Commons :*

11. Many of the subjects I have enumerated are of the greatest importance. It is with full confidence in your patriotism and wisdom that I commend them to your consideration, and I trust that a Gracious Providence may guide your Counsels in whatever way may best promote the happiness of the people of *Canada*, and the welfare of the Empire at large.

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

The Honorable Mr. *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 Mr. *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.

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

*Ordered*, That all the 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 Petition was brought up, and laid on the Table :

By the Honorable the Speaker,—of the Municipal Council of the Township of *Brighton*, in the Province of *Ontario*.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House a Statement of the condition of the *Etna* Insurance Company, of *Hartford*, on the 1st January, 1873.

Also, a List of the Shareholders of the *Canada* Landed Credit Company, made up to the 31st December, 1872 ;

And, also, the Report of the Librarian,—upon the state of the Library of Parliament.

*Ordered*, That the same do lie on the Table, and they are as follow :

(*Vide Sessional Papers.*)

Then, on motion of the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Aikins*,

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