

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 Samuel Merner, 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.

The House was resumed.

His Excellency the Most Honorable Sir HENRY CHARLES KEITH PETTY-FITZMAURICE, Marquis of Lansdowne, in the County of Somerset, Earl of Wycombe, of Chipping-Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, Viscount Caln and Calnstone in the County of Wilts, and Lord Wycombe, Baron of Chipping-Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Earl of Kerry and Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Clanmaurice and Fitzmaurice, Baron of Kerry, Lixnaw and Dunkerron, in the Peerage of Ireland; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., being seated on 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 Honourable Joseph Alderic Ouimet 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 consideration.

The Honorable the Speaker of the Senate 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 :*

It is my pleasing duty on the opening of a new Parliament to congratulate you on the general prosperity of the country and on the prospect of a coming season of peace and progress.

You will, I am sure, gladly join with the rest of the loyal subjects of the Queen in offering Her Majesty your sincere congratulations on Her having reached the fiftieth anniversary of Her accession to the Throne, and in giving expression to an earnest hope that she may be long spared to reign over Her vast Dominions.

The prominent position taken by Canada at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition recently held in London, has made the Dominion more widely and favorably known than before, and will, I have no doubt, contribute largely to its material progress by calling attention to the advantages offered by our country to the agriculturist, and by attracting the capital necessary for the development of its great natural resources.

Negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States on the Fishery Question, with respect to which my Government has been fully informed and consulted, are still in progress, and will, we may be permitted to hope, result in an arrangement honorable and satisfactory to both nations.

Meanwhile the necessary provision has been made for the protection of our in-shore fisheries. The papers on this subject will be laid before you.

Your attention will be invited to the expediency of establishing a Department of Trade and Commerce, under the supervision of a responsible Minister.

You will also be asked to consider the propriety of making such improvement in the organization of the Departments of Justice, Customs, and Inland Revenue, as will provide greater facilities for the despatch of the large and increasing volume of business with which those Departments are charged.

A measure will be submitted to you giving representation in the Senate to the North-West Territories in addition to that which they now possess in the House of Commons.

Other measures will be laid before you, and among them will be found Bills for the amendment of the Acts relating to Government Railways, for providing a better mode of trial of claims against the Crown, for the improvement of the Procedure in Criminal Cases, and for the further amendment of the Chinese Immigration Act.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

You will be asked, in order to provide against the possible interruption of the navigation of our great inland waters, for an appropriation in aid of the construction of a canal to connect the waters of Lakes Huron and Superior at Sault Ste. Marie.

The accounts for the past year will be laid before you, as well as the Estimates for the ensuing year. They have been prepared with due regard to economy and the requirements of the Public service.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I commend these important subjects and the others which may be laid before you to your best consideration, with full confidence in your earnest desire to promote the development and well-being of Canada.

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

The Honorable Mr. Smith 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. Smith, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Montgomery, it was