

JOURNALS

OF

THE SENATE OF CANADA.

Thursday, 25th February, 1892.

Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of February, in the fifty-fifth 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 Seventh 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 Honourable *JOHN JONES ROSS*, Speaker.

The Honourable Messieurs

Abbott,	DeBlois,	McKay,	Power,
Allan,	Dever,	McMillan,	Read, (Quinté),
Almon,	Dickey,	Macdonald (P.E.I.),	Robitaille,
Armand,	Girard,	Macdonald (Vict., B.C.),	Scott,
Bellerose,	Glasier,	MacInnes (Burlington),	Smith,
Boulton,	Guvémont,	Miller,	Sullivan,
Casgrain,	Howlan,	Montgomery,	Thibaudeau,
Clemon,	Kaulbach,	Murphy,	Vidal,
Cochraue,	McDonald (B.C.),	Poirier,	Wark.

PRAYERS.

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

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

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

OTTAWA, 24th February, 1892.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber, to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Thursday, the 25th instant, at 3 o'clock p.m.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES COLVILLE, Major,
Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Frederick Arthur Stanley, Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada, being seated in the Chair on the Throne.

The Honourable 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.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

It affords me much gratification to meet you at the commencement of the Parliamentary Session, and to be able to congratulate you upon the general prosperity of the Dominion, and upon the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed all parts of the country.

The lamented and untimely death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale has aroused a feeling of profound sorrow. The sympathy with Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, in their bereavement, which has prevailed in the Dominion on this melancholy occasion, has found expression in respectful messages of condolence from my Ministers, from the Provincial Governments, and from many other representative bodies.

The negotiations with respect to seal fishing in Behring Sea have been continued, with a view to the adjustment by arbitration, of the difficulties which have arisen between Her Majesty’s Government and that of the United States on that subject. Commissioners have been appointed by both Governments, to investigate the circumstances of seal life in Behring Sea; to report thereon; and to suggest the measures, if any, which they may deem necessary for its proper protection and preservation. The Commissioners are proceeding with their deliberations in Washington, and the results will shortly be communicated to Her Majesty’s Government. I trust that their investigations, and the determination of the Arbitrators who are to be appointed, may lead to a just and equitable settlement of this long-pending difficulty.

The meeting which had been arranged with the United States Government for a day in October last, for an informal discussion on the extension of trade between the two countries, and on other international matters requiring adjustment, was postponed at their request. But, in compliance with a more recent intimation from that Government, three of my Ministers proceeded to Washington, and conferred with representatives of the Administration of the United States on those subjects. An amicable understanding was arrived at respecting the steps to be taken for the establishment of the boundary of Alaska; and for reciprocity of services in cases of wreck and salvage. Arrangements were also reached for the appointment of an International Commission to report on the regulations which may be adopted by the United States and Canada for the prevention of destructive methods of fishing and the pollution of streams, and for establishing uniformity of close seasons, and other means for the preservation and increase of fish. A valuable and friendly interchange of views respecting other important matters also took place.

In accordance with the promise given at the close of the last session, a Commission has been issued to investigate the working of the Civil Service Act, and other matters connected with the Civil Service generally. The report of this Commission will be laid before you during the present session.

The conclusions of the Commission on the manufacture of beet-root sugar will also be laid before you.

It is desirable that the fishery regulations in British Columbia should be examined and revised so as to adapt them better to the requirements of the fisheries in that Province. A Commission has been issued with that object.

An important measure respecting the Criminal Law, which was laid before you last session, has been revised and improved, as a result of the expression of views elicited by its presentation to Parliament, and will be submitted to you. Your attention will also be directed to measures for the redistribution of seats consequent upon the Census returns; the establishment of the boundaries of the Territories; and the amalgamation of the Departments of Marine and Fisheries. Bills will also be presented to you for the amendment of the Civil Service Act, the Acts relating to real property in the Territories, and of those respecting the fisheries.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

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

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I commend these important subjects, and all matters affecting the public interests which may be brought before you, to your best consideration, and I feel assured that you will address yourselves to them with earnestness and assiduity.

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

The Honourable Mr. Abbott, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, presented to the House, a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

The Honourable the Speaker reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, and the same was then read by the Clerk.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Abbott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Smith, 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 Honourable Mr. Abbott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Smith, 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 Honourable Mr. Abbott moved, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Smith, That when the House adjourns this day it do stand adjourned until Monday next, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The question of concurrence being put thereon, the same was resolved in the affirmative, and

Ordered accordingly.

Then, on motion of the Honourable Mr. Abbott, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Smith,

The House adjourned until Monday next, at three o'clock in the afternoon.