

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honor to inform this House, that when the House attended His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the Speech, which is as follows:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In again meeting you for the despatch of business I have to congratulate you on the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed our country and upon the general condition of the Dominion. Its commercial prosperity, although it has to some extent shared in the depression which has prevailed in Great Britain and in the neighboring Republic, rests upon foundations which no temporary or partial disturbance can remove.

I trust that the present year will be one of peace and progress.

The flow of population into Manitoba and the North-West Territories, although impeded by various and unexpected causes, has been substantial, and the testimony of members of the British Association and other visitors of the North-West last summer as to the well-being, contentment, and hopefulness of the settlers, is most gratifying.

A Bill introducing into those Territories a more simple and economical system for the transfer of land will be laid before you.

The Report of the Commission for the consolidation of the Statutes affecting the Dominion has been completed and will be submitted to you for legislative action.

You are again invited to consider a measure relating to the representation of the people in Parliament and for the assimilation of the Electoral Franchises in the several Provinces.

A provisional arrangement of matters for some time under discussion with the Government of Manitoba has been entered into, and a measure confirming the same will be submitted to you so soon as it has been accepted by the Provincial Legislature.

I deemed it expedient to issue during the Recess a Commission to consider and report upon the whole subject of Chinese immigration with reference to its trade relations, as well as to those social and moral objections which have been taken to the influx of the Chinese people into Canada.

The Report of the Commissioners is very nearly completed, and will be laid before you during the present Session.

The necessity of encouraging the speedy construction of lines of railway through the North-West Territories has pressed itself on my Government, and you will be asked to aid railway enterprise by liberal grants of land.

Urgent representations have been made by the Boards of Trade of the chief towns in Canada, as well as by some of the Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain, of the necessity that exists for the adoption of some system of bankruptcy or insolvency giving adequate protection against undue preferences, and your attention to this important subject is earnestly invited.

In pursuance of the vote of last Session I caused a vessel to be fitted out and dispatched to Davis' Straits and Hudson's Bay, in order to obtain more accurate information as to the navigation of those waters, and test the practicability of the route for commercial purposes.

A report of the progress of the expedition during the last season will be laid before you.

An International Exhibition will be opened at Antwerp during the present year, and a Colonial and Indian Exhibition is to be held in London in 1886. Canada should, I think, be represented in her various manufactures and natural productions on both occasions, and I invoke your consideration of the best means of aiding in these important objects.

Several other measures of importance will be submitted to you; among them will be Bills to amend the Insurance Act of 1877, the Civil Service Act, and the law relating to contagious diseases among cattle,

Mr. SPEAKER.

as well as measures for taking, at an early period, a census of the population of the North-West Territories, and one relating to the North-West Mounted Police.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the past fiscal year will be laid before you. You will find that notwithstanding the very considerable reduction in the prices and volume of many of the leading imports, the income has exceeded the expenditure chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.

The estimates for the ensuing year will also be submitted. They will be found, I trust, to have been prepared with due regard to economy.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I am sure that your earnest consideration will be given to the subjects I have mentioned, as well as to every matter which may affect the prosperity and good government of Canada.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections. 2. On Expiring Laws. 3. On Railways, Canals, and Telegraph Lines. 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills. 5. On Standing Orders. 6. On Printing. 7. On Public Accounts. 8. On Banking and Commerce. 9. On Immigration and Colonization; which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 4 o'clock) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 30th January, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MEMBER INTRODUCED.

The following Member, having previously taken the Oath according to law, and subscribed the roll containing the same, took his seat in the House:

HECTOR F. McDUGALL, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Cape Breton, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Hon. Mr. McLelan.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. TASCHEREAU. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker: Having been called upon as the youngest member of this House, by virtue of a time-honored tradition, to move the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, I feel that, less than any of my predecessors, would I be justified in leaving aside that other time-honored tradition which makes it my duty to begin by craving the indulgence of this