

April 12, 1872

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 12, 1872

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at 1/4 to 4 p.m.

Prayers

Mr. CUMBERLAND the newly elected member for Algoma was introduced by the Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald and the Hon. Sir Francis Hincks, and took his seat.

Mr. NATHAN: I have the honor to move an Address in reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor General, which Address, I feel convinced, will commend itself to every member of this House.

In being entrusted with the duty of moving this Address, I fully appreciate the compliment that has been paid me by Province to which I belong, and in performing the duty, I crave that indulgence which this House is accustomed to accord to those who address it for the first time.

The recovery of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales must necessarily be a matter of congratulation to every loyal Canadian, and the demonstrations of joy and thanksgiving that have been evinced by British subjects throughout the world cannot fail of awakening pleasurable feelings in the breasts alike of her most Gracious Majesty, H.R.H. the Prince, and all the Royal Family.

It will be our duty on Monday to assist in giving formal expression to the sense of gratitude of the Canadian people to the Almighty for the great mercy He has vouchsafed us, and I feel convinced that in no part of Her Majesty's Empire will there have been a stronger or more sincere demonstration of joy than here.

We fully appreciate the necessity of the postponed meeting of Parliament, in view of the existence of grave considerations justifying that course. Again, since the last meeting of the House, has the peace of the country been disturbed by a threatened invasion of lawless individuals from the neighboring Republic. Thanks, however, to the promptness of the Government and the friendly action of the United States authorities, the evil was averted.

The facility offered by the vast extent and scattered population of this country, to evilly disposed persons, to enter upon such nefarious undertakings would appear to call for measures of protection at vulnerable points, and more particularly would this

appear to be the case at Fort Garry, where a body of militia should be retained to watch the safety of the community.

On the occasion I had referred to, as well as on previous occasions of a similar nature, the Canadian soldier had upheld his character for courage and endurance. Although circumstances prevented them meeting the disturbers of the tranquility of their country face to face, their discipline and energy were fully proved by their successfully overcoming the obstacles of a march to Manitoba, through such a difficult country and at a most inclement season of the year, in so short a period.

I am sure I only re-echo the feelings of all Canadians when I say that no reasonable expenditure on the part of the Government will be begrudged in defending the country from those outrages, and that the expenses that have been incurred in connection with the case in question, will be cheerfully voted.

I trust that the marked and ignominious failures of all the efforts these filibusters have yet made, will deter them from making any further attempts in the same direction.

We are glad to be informed that the Treaty of Washington which touched upon affairs of so much interest to this Dominion will be laid before the House, and that other communications bearing upon this important subject will be presented for our consideration, and I doubt not that the action taken will be that best calculated to serve the true interests of the country.

It must be universally gratifying to learn from His Excellency's speech that so many subjects likely to promote our best interests have received that attention which their importance demands, not the least of which is the question of Immigration.

It is most satisfactory to know that a scheme for the encouragement of that movement will be laid before the House which will doubtless have the effect of attracting a larger share of European emigration to these shores than has hitherto reached us, and which will help to populate this large Dominion extending from ocean to ocean, and capable of supporting so many millions of souls. Money devoted to such an object cannot be more advantageously invested—for population only is needed to make this Dominion one of the richest countries in the world.

The admission of British Columbia must also be a subject of congratulation to this House. By confederation with that Province you have secured a territory of 220,000 square miles, a land rich in