

Jean Auguste Ross, Esq., for the Electoral District of Rimouski ;

George H. Bertram, Esq., for the Electoral District of Toronto Centre ;

Joseph Hector Leduc, Esq., for the Electoral District of Nicolet ;

Albert Malouin, Esq., for the Electoral District of Quebec Centre.

MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

Jean Auguste Ross, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Rimouski, by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and Mr. Guay.

Albert Malouin, Member for the Electoral District of Quebec Centre, by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and Mr. Belcourt.

George Hope Bertram, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Centre Toronto, introduced by Sir Louis Davies and Hon. Wm. Paterson.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour 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:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I have observed with great pleasure the remarkable advance in the political importance and material prosperity of Canada during the year which has just closed.

The loan recently effected has shown that the credit of Canada has never stood so high in European markets, and affords reasonable ground for expecting that the burthens of the people will, in the near future, be materially reduced by the substitution of a much lower rate of interest on our indebtedness than that which now exists.

I congratulate you upon the exceedingly cordial reception accorded to the representatives of Canada at the Jubilee ceremonials, and also upon the warm appreciation manifested everywhere throughout the Mother Country in reference to the conduct of Canada in materially reducing the rate of duty upon goods imported from the United Kingdom into the Dominion.

The action of the Imperial Government in denouncing the treaties with Germany and Belgium also affords most satisfactory evidence of their desire to facilitate your efforts to promote the closest possible commercial relations between Canada and the remainder of the Em-

Mr. SPEAKER.

pire, and will, I trust, contribute materially to the development of Imperial trade.

The extraordinary gold discoveries recently made upon the Yukon and its tributaries, appear likely to result in an enormous influx of people into that region, and have compelled the Government to take prompt action for the preservation of law and order in that distant and almost inaccessible locality : measures will be laid before you for that purpose.

A contract has been entered into, subject to your approval, for the completion at the earliest possible moment of a system of rail and river communication through Canadian territory with the Klondike and principal gold fields, which it is expected will secure to Canada the larger portion of the lucrative traffic of that country.

The bountiful harvest with which we have been favoured by a benevolent Providence has contributed greatly to the increase of our prosperity, and I am glad to note that the trade and commerce of the Dominion, and more especially the amount and values of her principal exports, have increased greatly during the past eighteen months, and there is good reason to believe that this improvement may be maintained, if not augmented, during the remainder of the present year.

I observe with pleasure that certain Government contracts recently let contain provisions calculated to suppress the evils of the sweating system.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you.

The Estimates for the succeeding year will likewise be placed upon the Table at an early date.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

Measures will be submitted to you respecting Superannuation, the repeal of the present Franclise Act, and a plebiscite on the question of Prohibition.

These and other measures I commend to your earnest consideration, invoking the Divine blessings upon the important labours on which you are again entering.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no desire to interpose any objection to considering this Speech, but I think it would be more convenient to pursue the usual course and adjourn until Monday.