

Of Thomas Beattie, Esq., for the Electoral District of London.

Of Charles Lewis Owen, Esq., for the Electoral District of the East Riding of the County of Northumberland, and

Of Alexander Munro Martin, Esq., for the Electoral District of the North Riding of the County of Wellington.

#### MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

Honourable William Pugsley, member for the Electoral District of St. John City and County; introduced by Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and Honourable W. S. Fielding.

Honourable George Perry Graham, member for the Electoral District of Brockville; introduced by Hon. Wm. Paterson and Mr. W. S. Calvert.

Thomas Beattie, Esq., member for the Electoral District of London; introduced by Mr. R. L. Borden and Mr. F. D. Monk.

Charles Lewis Owen, Esq., member for the Electoral District of East Northumberland; introduced by Mr. R. L. Borden and Mr. W. B. Northrup.

Alexander Munro Martin, Esq., member for the Electoral District of North Wellington; introduced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Millar.

#### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the administration of oaths of office.—Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier (Prime Minister.)

#### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

MR. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend 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, which is as follows:

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In again meeting you at a period of the year most convenient for the despatch of business, it gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the remarkable expansion of the trade of Canada with other countries, the total trade of the past year far exceeding that of any of its predecessors. A gratifying result of this expansion was that the revenue of the last fiscal period of nine months was more than sufficient to meet expenses on Consolidated Fund, National Transcontinental Railway Capital and Special outlays, all expenses of the Dominion of every kind, and leave a balance of over three million dollars to be applied in reduction of the public debt.

The stream of immigrants coming to Canada continues to increase in volume, the year now drawing to a close showing a larger num-

Mr SPEAKER

ber than any preceding year, and it is gratifying to observe the many coming from the British Isles.

The Dominion has been blessed by a long series of prosperous years, and, though at the present moment its business is being restricted by the financial stringency which prevails throughout the world, I feel assured that this unfavourable condition will be temporary and that the illimitable resources of Canada and the world-wide recognition of them give us ample guarantee of continued material progress.

The conference held in London in the months of April and May last between the government of the United Kingdom and the governments of the British Dominions beyond the seas satisfactorily dealt with many subjects in which the empire at large is interested. A copy of the minutes of the proceedings will be laid before you.

Two of my ministers, duly authorized by His Majesty for the purpose, and acting in conjunction with His Majesty's ambassador at Paris, have recently negotiated a convention with the government of the French Republic respecting the commercial relations between France and Canada, subject, however, to the approval of the French Chambers and the Canadian Parliament. A copy of this convention will be submitted to you immediately and you will be asked to give it your sanction.

The government of Newfoundland having become involved in a controversy with the government of the United States as to the true meaning of article 1 of the convention respecting fisheries, concluded in the year 1818 between the United Kingdom and the United States, and Canada being also interested in the question at issue, my government has joined with the government of Newfoundland in an agreement to refer all matters of difference arising under said article 1 to the Hague Tribunal.

The difficulty of obtaining labour and materials at a time of great business activity has somewhat retarded the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway. Nevertheless great progress has been made both on the eastern division and on the prairie section of the western division. A section of the latter of about two hundred and fifty miles has been available for handling the traffic of the present season. Contracts for the portion of the prairie section west of Edmonton are about to be let, and immediate steps will be taken for the commencement of work at both the eastern and western ends of the mountain division. Thus, in a very short time,