

The Honourable the Speaker then acquainted the Senate that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table the Certificate of one of the Commissioners setting forth that the Honourable Mr. Arsenault, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867.

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

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

OTTAWA, 15th April, 1895.

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 18th inst., at Three o'clock, P.M.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR GORDON,  
*Governor General's Secretary.*

The Honourable

The Speaker of the Senate, &c., &c.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen; Viscount Formartine, Baron Haddo, Methlic, Tarves and Kellie, in the Peerage of Scotland; Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baronet of Nova Scotia, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada, being seated 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 is with much satisfaction that I again have recourse to your advice and assistance in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion.

By the sudden and lamented death of the late Right Honourable Sir John Thompson, Canada has sustained a grievous loss. The deep and heartfelt sympathy expressed by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the manifestations of sorrow with which the distressing intelligence was received throughout the Empire, as well as tokens of esteem and respect everywhere paid to the memory of the deceased statesman, have been gratefully appreciated by the people of Canada.

Satisfactory assurances having been received from Her Majesty's Government respecting the interpretation of certain clauses in the Treaty of Commerce with France, ratifications will be exchanged as soon as the necessary legislation has been passed.

The recent action of the Imperial Parliament enabling the various Australasian Governments to enter into preferential trade relations with the other self-governing Colonies of the Empire, affords gratifying proof that the suggestions of the Colonial Conference are being favourably entertained by Her Majesty's Government.