

October 23, 1873

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****OPENING OF SECOND SESSION****Thursday, October 23 1873****SECOND PARLIAMENT**

Since the inauguration of the Dominion, no session of Parliament has been opened under circumstances of so grave import as that which was begun yesterday. The excited state of public feeling was manifested in the unusually large gathering of interested onlookers from all sections of the country, even the most remote. The interest of the proceeding was also enhanced by the presence for the first time of the members from the newly united Province of Prince Edward Island.

Since Monday, 20 October, 1873, the city has worn an unwonted appearance of life. Strange faces were visible at every street corner, the hotels have been crowded to repletion, despite increased accommodation, and late arrivals had difficulty in obtaining places wherein to lay their heads.

As the time for opening drew near, the appearances of excitement increased. The streets in the vicinity of the Parliament Building were thronged with members of the different volunteer corps who were to take part in the ceremony, were here and there seen hurrying to their mustering places, and early in the afternoon a crowd began to assemble in Parliament Square, forming picturesque groups to which the bright colours of the garments worn by a considerable number of the fairer sex lent a happy warmth.

At two o'clock the Governor General's Foot Guards, under command of Major White, Captain Wickstead, Lt. Larman and Ensign Bate, marched into the grounds and formed on the terrace in front of the Houses of Parliament as a guard of honour, and soon afterwards the Ottawa Field Battery took up position in the Square, commanded by Captain Steward, unlimbered their guns, and prepared to fire a salute. Meanwhile a steady stream of people who were fortunate enough to possess tickets of admission to the Galleries of the Houses poured into the buildings, awaiting in the corridors the opening of the doors admitting to the galleries of the Senate and Commons Chambers, while upon the floor of the House were ranged on either side in company with the Countess of Dufferin, the fairest dames of Ottawa.

Shortly after three o'clock the booming of the guns announced that the Governor was on his way, soon the leading files of the Ottawa troupe of Cavalry, under the command of Capt. Sparks, which formed the escort, made their appearance at the gate-way, and a moment later the Vice-Regal carriage swept into the enclosure and drew up at the main entrance to the Parliament Building, attended by the following military staff:

**STAFF OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL**

Colonel Fletcher, Scott's Fus. Guards, Military Secretary  
 Lieutenant Hamilton, A.D.C.  
 Lieutenant Ward, R.N.  
 Mr. Patterson, Private Secretary  
 Lt.-Colonel Powell, Acting Adjut. General  
 Lt.-Colonel Wily, Director of Stores  
 Lt.-Colonel Macpherson, D.A.A.G.  
 Lt.-Colonel Jackson, Acting D.A.G.  
 Lt.-Colonel Strange, B. Battery, Quebec  
 Lt.-Colonel Coffin  
 Lt.-Colonel Ross, Governor General's Foot Guards  
 Lt.-Colonel Dennis  
 Major White, G.G. Foot Guards  
 Major Wickstead, G.G. Foot Guards  
 Surgeon Malloch, G.G. Foot Guards  
 Major Macdonald  
 Major Perry  
 Major Egleson, O.B.G.A.  
 Paymaster Crombie, do.  
 Paymaster Woodburn, Field Battery  
 Captain Seymour, Port Hope Battery  
 Captain Duchesnay, B. Battery, Quebec  
 Surgeon Neilson  
 Captain Sparks, Cavalry  
 Lieut. Wilson, A. Battery, Kingston