

THE DEBATES

—OF THE—

SENATE OF CANADA

—IN THE—

SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, APPOINTED TO MEET FOR DESPATCH OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF FEBRUARY, IN THE FIFTY-FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, February, 23rd, 1888.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 2.30 p. m.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NEW SENATOR INTRODUCED.

THE SPEAKER presented to the House a return from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, setting forth that HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL had summoned to the Senate:—

John Macdonald, of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario.

The Honorable MR. MACDONALD was then introduced, and having taken and subscribed the oath of office, and made and subscribed the declaration of qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867, took his seat.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

At Three o'clock HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL proceeded in state to the Senate Chamber, and took his seat upon the Throne. HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being present, was pleased to open the SECOND SESSION of the SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, with the following Speech:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

It affords me much gratification to meet you once more at the commencement of the Parliamentary Session, and to congratulate you upon the general prosperity of the country.

Although the labors of the husbandman have not been rewarded in some portions of the Dominion by an adequate return, the harvest of last year has on the whole been plenteous, while in Manitoba and the North-West Territories it was one of remarkable abundance.

The negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the adjustment of what is known as "The Fishery Question", have, I am pleased to inform you, resulted in a Treaty which will, I venture to hope, be considered by you as honourable and satisfactory to both nations. The Treaty, with the papers and correspondence relating thereto, will be laid before you, and you will be invited to adopt a measure to give effect to its provisions.

The extension and development of our system of railways have not only rendered necessary additional safeguards for life and property but have given greater frequency to questions in which the interests of rival companies are found to be in conflict, and to require authoritative adjustment. As further legislation appears to be needed for these purposes, a measure will be submitted to you for the consolidation and improvement of "The Railway Act."

Experience having shown that amendments are required to make the provisions of the Act respecting Elections of the Members of the House of Commons more effective and more convenient in their operation, you will be asked to consider a measure for the amendment of that Statute. The Act respecting Controverted Elections may likewise require attention with a view to the removal of certain questions of interpretation which have arisen and which should be set at rest.

My Government has availed itself of the opportunity afforded by the recess to consider the numerous suggestions which have been made for improving the details of the Act respecting the Election Franchise, and a measure will be submitted to you for the purpose of