

The Honorable the Speaker acquainted the House, that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table a Certificate of the Commissioner, setting forth that the Honorable *Joseph Northwood*, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the *British North America Act, 1867*.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir JOHN DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND CAMPBELL (commonly called the Marquis of *Lorne*), Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of *St. Michael* and *St. George*, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., being seated in the Chair on the Throne,

The Honorable 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.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In opening this, the Third Session of the present Parliament, I have to offer you my sincere congratulations on the bountiful harvest with which *Canada* has been blessed, as well as on the undoubted return of her Commercial prosperity, and the substantial development of her various industries.

During the recess my advisers thought the time opportune for making another attempt to carry out the declared preference of Parliament for the construction and operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway by means of an Incorporated Company, aided by grants of money and land, rather than by the direct action of the Government.

Three of my Ministers therefore proceeded to England for the purpose of carrying on negotiations to that end.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that their efforts were so far successful that a contract has been entered into, subject to the approval of Parliament, with men of high financial standing in *Europe*, the *United States* and *Canada*, for the speedy construction and permanent working of this great national enterprise.

The Contract and the papers connected therewith, will be submitted to you without delay, and I invoke for them your early and earnest consideration.

With this view I have summoned you before the usual period, as no action can be taken by the Contractors to prosecute the work, and no permanent arrangement for the organization of a systematic Emigration from *Europe* to the *North-West Territories* can be satisfactorily made until the policy of Parliament with respect to the Railway has been decided.

Steady progress has been made in the construction of those portions of the Railway now under contract. Two additional sections have been recently opened for traffic, one from *Winnipeg* to *Portage la Prairie*, the other from *Cross Lake* to *Kewatin*; so that there are now in all 264 miles in operation.

You will be glad to learn that the measures adopted to promote economy in the working of the Intercolonial and *Prince-Edward Island* Railways have resulted in a large reduction of the difference between Revenue and Expenditure, and that the steadily increasing traffic warrants the expectation that during the current year these Railways will be self-sustaining.

I have the gratification of informing you that Her Majesty's Government has generously presented to *Canada*, for training school purposes the steam corvette *Charybdis* lately returned from service in the Chinese Seas. The correspondence on this subject will be laid before you.