

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the administration of oaths of office.—(Sir John A. Macdonald.)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honor 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. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In addressing the Parliament of Canada for the first time, in fulfilment of the important trust which has been committed to me as Her Majesty's Representative, I desire to express the satisfaction with which I resort to your advice and assistance.

I am conscious of the honor which attends my association with your labors for the welfare of the Dominion, and it will be my earnest endeavor to co-operate with you, to the utmost of my power, in all that may promote the prosperity of the people of this country, the development of her material resources, and the maintenance of the constitutional ties which unite her provinces.

It is to be regretted that the treaty concluded between Her Majesty and the President of the United States, for the adjustment of the questions which have arisen with reference to "The Fisheries," has not been sanctioned by the United States Senate, in whom the power of ratification is vested; and that our legislation of last year on the subject is therefore in a great measure inoperative.

It now only remains for Canada to continue to maintain her rights as prescribed by the Convention of 1818, until some satisfactory readjustment is arranged by treaty between the two nations.

A measure will again be submitted to you to amend the Acts respecting the Electoral Franchise, for the purpose of simplifying the law and lessening the cost of its operation.

It is expedient, in the interests of commerce, to assimilate, and in some particulars to amend, the laws which now obtain in the several Provinces of the Dominion relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques and Promissory Notes; and a Bill with this object will be laid before you.

A Bill will also be provided for making uniform throughout the Dominion the laws relating to Bills of Lading.

During the recess my Government has carefully considered the subject of Ocean Steam Service, and you will be asked to provide subsidies for the improvement of the Atlantic Mail Service, and for the establishment, in concert with Her Majesty's Government, of a line of fast steamers between British Columbia and China and Japan. Your attention will also be invited to the best mode of developing our trade, and securing direct communication by steam with Australasia, the West Indies and South America.

A Bill will be submitted for your consideration for the prevention of certain offences in connection with Municipal Councils, and to give greater facilities for making enquiries as to such matters.

Several measures will also be presented to you for improving the Law of Procedure in Criminal Cases. Among these will be a Bill to permit the release on probation of persons convicted of first offences, a Bill authorising regulations to be made for the practice in cases partaking of the nature of criminal proceedings, and a Bill to make the Speedy Trials Act applicable throughout Canada.

Bills relating to the inspection of timber and lumber, for the improvement of the Postal System, and for increasing the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police, will also be submitted for your consideration.

The Royal Commissioners on Labor having concluded their enquiries, I hope to be able to lay before you at an early day their report with the important evidence collected by them in various parts of Canada.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Accounts for the past and the Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. These Estimates have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the efficiency of the public service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I now commend these several subjects and the others which may be brought before you to your earnest consideration, and I trust that the result of your deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, tend to promote the well-being and prosperity of Canada.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House,—The Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections. 2. On Expiring Laws. 3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines. 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills. 5. On Standing Orders. 6. On Printing. 7. On Public Accounts. 8. On Banking and Commerce. 9. On Agriculture and Colonisation; which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 3.45 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 1st February, 1889.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

CONTROVERTED ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada, a certified copy of the judgment of the said court in the election appeal of Poirier vs. Fiset, said judgment dismissing the appeal.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that the Clerk of the House had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, a certificate of the election and return of Alphonse A. C. LaRivière as Member for Provencher.

REPORTS.

Annual Report of the Department of Public Works for the year ending 30th June, 1888.—(Sir Hector Langevin.)

The Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1888.—(Mr. Foster.)

Annual Report of the Department of Marine for the year ending 30th June, 1888.—(Mr. Tupper.)