

and report the draft of an Address in answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament, in conformity with the said Resolution.

The Honorable Sir *John A. Macdonald* reported from the Select Committee appointed to draw up an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, That they had drawn up an Address accordingly, and the same was read, as followeth :—

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir *John Young*, Baronet, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint *Michael* and Saint *George*, Governor General of *Canada*, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of *Canada*, in Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Excellency for Your Gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session of Parliament.

We are grateful to Your Excellency for the expression of your confidence in recurring to our advice, and of your satisfaction in being enabled, on the present occasion, to summon us to the discharge of our public duties at the period of the year most convenient to ourselves.

We feel, with Your Excellency, that the circumstances under which we meet are, in many respects, auspicious. The Bounty of Providence having crowned the Harvest with abundance, and made the Fisheries unusually productive; in many districts existing industries have been enlarged, and new enterprises have started into activity, furnishing fresh avenues for Commerce, and additional employment for our people; whilst every day new sections of the country are being opened to the labors of the husbandman. And we have pleasure in believing that the trade and wealth of the Dominion are on the increase, and that the equal administration of the laws maintains, as heretofore, the enjoyment of a general sense of security.

We are aware that Your Excellency must have watched, with much anxiety, the course of events, in the North-West Territories, unfortunate misapprehensions of the intentions with which the country was sought to be acquired by *Canada* having led to complications of a grave character. We agree, with Your Excellency, that, with a view to their removal, it is desirable to exhaust every means of conciliation, before adopting other measures; and we are glad to learn that the latest advices lead Your Excellency to expect that the groundless alarms entertained by a portion of the inhabitants, have given place to a desire to listen to the explanations, which you have caused to be made to them. We trust that the efforts made by Your Excellency's Government will not fail to accomplish an equitable and peaceful solution of the existing difficulty, and thereby secure the speedy incorporation of the North-West Territories with *Canada*, an object so earnestly desired by the Empire and the Dominion.

We shall give our best attention to any measure providing for the Government of these Territories when united with *Canada*, which may be submitted to us in place of the present Act, which will expire at the close of the present Session.

Inasmuch as the Charters of most of the Banks of the Dominion were, last Session, extended for a limited period, with the view that during the interval the questions of Banking and Currency should receive the consideration which their importance demands, we shall give our earnest attention to any measure intended to ensure safety to the community, without interfering with the legitimate operations of the Banks, which Your Excellency may cause to be submitted for our consideration, and which, we trust, will be found calculated to place those important interests upon a sound and stable basis.

We are aware that the Laws in force on the subject of the Elective Franchise, and the regulation of the Parliamentary Elections in the several Provinces of the Dominion, vary much in their operation, and that it is important that uniform provision should be made, settling the Franchise and regulating Elections to the House of Commons. And we shall carefully consider any measure upon this subject which may be submitted to us.