

Ordered, That Mr. Foster have leave to bring in a Bill respecting the administration of Oaths of Office.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read the first time.

Mr. Speaker reported, 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, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, as followeth:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

It is with much satisfaction that I again have recourse to your advice and assistance in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion.

By the sudden and lamented death of the late Right Honourable Sir John Thompson, Canada has sustained a grievous loss. The deep and heartfelt sympathy expressed by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the manifestations of sorrow with which the distressing intelligence was received throughout the Empire, as well as tokens of esteem and respect everywhere paid to the memory of the deceased statesman, have been gratefully appreciated by the people of Canada.

Satisfactory assurances having been received from Her Majesty's Government respecting the interpretation of certain clauses in the Treaty of Commerce with France, ratifications will be exchanged as soon as the necessary legislation has been passed.

The recent action of the Imperial Parliament enabling the various Australasian Governments to enter into preferential trade relations with the other self-governing Colonies of the Empire, affords gratifying proof that the suggestions of the Colonial Conference are being favourably entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

In conformity with a recent judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to the effect that the dissentient minority of the people of Manitoba have a constitutional right of appeal to the Governor General in Council against certain Acts passed by the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba in relation to the subject of education, I have heard in Council the appeal, and my decision thereon has been communicated to the Legislature of the said Province. The papers on the subject will be laid before you.

The depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has made itself felt in Canada, but, fortunately, to a less degree than in most other countries. Although this has not resulted in any considerable decrease in the volume of our foreign trade, yet, owing to low prices and recent reductions in, and removal of, taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from Customs and Excise. In order to produce equilibrium between revenue and expenditure for the coming year, it will be necessary to observe the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.

During the period that has elapsed since the last Session of Parliament, I have had an opportunity of visiting many portions of the Dominion, including the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the North-west Territories and British Columbia. Throughout these tours I have been impressed and gratified by manifestations of an abounding loyalty and public spirit; and, notwithstanding the phase of trade depression already referred to, I observed everywhere unmistakable signs of that confident hopefulness in the future, based on a thorough belief in the greatness of the resources of Canada, which is one of the characteristics of her people, and which furnishes a good augury and pledge of further development and progress.

The Government of Newfoundland having intimated its desire to renew negotiations looking to the admission of that colony into the Dominion of Canada, a sub-committee of my advisers have recently met in conference a delegation from the