

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the House, a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and it is as follows:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA, 12th March, 1894.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber, to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Thursday, the 15th instant, at 3 o'clock p.m.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR GORDON,  
*Governor General's Secretary.*

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the Senate.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.  
After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen; Viscount Formartine, Baron Haddo, Methlic, Tarves and Kellie, in the Peerage of Scotland; Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baronet of Nova Scotia, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada, being seated on the Throne.

The Honourable 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.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In the Queen's name I greet you, for the first time since assuming the high functions intrusted to me by Her Majesty; and it is with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction that I thus meet you assembled for the labours of another session of Parliament.

This feeling of satisfaction is enhanced by the opportunities which I have already enjoyed of visiting, and in my official capacity renewing acquaintance with, several of the chief centres of the enterprise and activity of this Dominion; nor need I refrain from assuring you that I have been deeply impressed by the heartiness of the reception accorded to me as Her Majesty's Viceroy and Representative, a reception which has once more manifested the loyalty, the cordiality and the public spirit of the Canadian people.

My predecessor was able to express gratification to you last year, on an increase in trade and on the continued progress of the Dominion. It is gratifying to me to observe that the expectation which was then formed—that the volume of trade during the then current year would exceed that of any year in the history of the Dominion—has been fully realized and that Canada's progress continues, with every mark of stability and permanence.

It may be observed with satisfaction that a large proportion of this increase is shown to have been due to an extension of our commerce with Great Britain.

It is a cause of thankfulness that our people have been spared in a very great degree from the sufferings which have visited the populations of some other countries during many months past, and that while the commercial depression prevailing abroad could not but affect the activity of business in the Dominion, we have been free from any extensive financial disaster or widespread distress.