

*Resolved*, That the said Resolution be referred to a Select Committee composed of the Honorable Messieurs *Mackenzie*, *Dorion* and *Smith*, and Messieurs *Moss* and *Laurier*, to prepare 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 to the said Resolution.

The Honorable Mr. *Mackenzie* 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 *Frederick Temple*, Earl of *Dufferin*, Viscount and Baron *Clandeboye* of *Clandeboye*, in the County *Down*, in the Peerage of the *United Kingdom*, Baron *Dufferin* and *Clandeboye* of *Ballyleidy* and *Killeleagh* in the County *Down*, in the Peerage of *Ireland*, and a Baronet, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of *Saint Patrick* and Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice Admiral of the same, &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.

We are grateful to Your Excellency for having convoked Parliament at the earliest moment consistent with the delay entailed by the recent dissolution.

We receive with satisfaction the announcement that our attention will be invited during the present session to measures having reference to the representation of the people in Parliament, embracing the system now prevailing in *Great Britain* and in most other countries enjoying Constitutional Government of taking votes by Ballot, and to the establishment of a General Court of Appeal; and that measures will be submitted to us for the amendment of the Laws relating to Controverted Elections, the Militia and Insolvency.

The enactment of 1872 respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway having failed to secure the prosecution of that great enterprise, we beg to assure Your Excellency that we shall be ready most earnestly to consider what plan will best and most speedily provide the means of trans-continental communication with *British Columbia*.

We shall receive with pleasure the Report of the Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway, shewing the progress made during the past year in the surveys connected with the proposed line, which will be laid before us, though we regret that the destruction of the Railway Offices by fire involved a serious loss of maps, plans and papers, the possession of which would have made the Report more complete.

We are gratified to learn that the Canal and Harbor improvements are being vigorously prosecuted with a view to ensure adequate accommodation for the rapidly growing trade of the country.

We thank Your Excellency for the assurance that the Report of the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works on the proposed Canal between the Gulf of *St. Lawrence* and the *Bay of Fundy* will be submitted for our consideration.

We are pleased to learn that from the progress already made in the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, it may be completed in another year; also, that a Report shewing its actual condition will be laid before Parliament, and that a measure will be introduced to vest in the Department of Public Works the powers now exercised by the Board of Railway Commissioners.

We rejoice to learn from Your Excellency that the question of compensation due to the Dominion for the Fishery privileges conceded to the *United States* by the Treaty of *Washington* has given rise to a renewal of negotiations tending to widen reciprocal trade relations with that country; and that at the instance of the Government the Imperial authorities have given directions to the British Minister to discuss the whole subject with the Administration at *Washington*, and have associated with him for this purpose a Canadian Commissioner.