

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, 20th August, 1896.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

This day, at Three o'clock p.m., HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL proceeded in state to the Senate Chamber, and took His Seat upon the Throne. The Senators being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons. The members of that body, preceded by their Speaker, the Honourable JAMES DAVID EDGAR, appeared at the Bar. The Honourable JAMES DAVID EDGAR then informed His Excellency that the choice of the House of Commons had fallen upon him to be their Speaker; and he prayed for the members thereof the customary parliamentary privileges.

After which HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to open the FIRST SESSION of the EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA with the following Speech:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The necessity of making provision for the public service has compelled me to summon you together at this somewhat inconvenient season.

It is impossible to lay before you, at this session, the public accounts for the past year; or indeed any of the reports usually submitted to Parliament.

Under these circumstances and in view of the fact that you will be required to re-assemble early in the ensuing year, it does not appear expedient to invite your attention to any measures beyond the passage of the supplies.

The operation of the tariff will be made the subject of careful inquiry during the recess, with a view to the preparation of such a measure as may, without doing injustice to any interest, materially lighten the burdens of the people.

Immediate steps will be taken to effect a settlement of the Manitoba School question, and I have every confidence that, when Parliament next assembles, this important controversy will have been adjusted satisfactorily.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Estimates for the current year will be laid before you forthwith.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I hope that when you will have given the necessary attention to the consideration of the year's supplies, I may be able to relieve you from

the duty of further attendance at this session of Parliament.

The House of Commons then withdrew.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill "An Act relating to Railways."
—(Sir Oliver Mowat.)

THE ADDRESS.

The SPEAKER reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, and the same was then read by the Clerk.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT moved:

That this House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General on Monday next, at three o'clock.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I would suggest to the hon. leader that he should make it Tuesday next, as many members of this House, if they return to their homes to-night, cannot be here on Monday afternoon unless they travel on the Sabbath. I would also suggest that the adjournment be until Tuesday next at eight o'clock, which is a more convenient hour for those who have to return from a distance. Without entering into the merits of the Speech from the Throne, I am very much gratified to notice a paragraph in the speech indicating that there is a probability that that very vexed question which has agitated the people of this country for the last few years is being finally settled. From recent editorial comments, in the organs of the Government, I was led to believe that some arrangement had been made by which a final settlement has already been reached and that the leader would be able to inform the House what that arrangement was. I do not wish to press for an answer at the present moment, but I call the attention of the House to the fact that statements have been frequently made by those journals which support the Government to the effect that the Manitoba School question has been finally settled, and I trust that the Government will be prepared, when the question comes before us for discussion, to take the country into their confidence and let us know what that settlement is. I assure hon. gentlemen that no one will rejoice more than I will when the question is removed from the political arena of federal politics.